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Making sense of the world

THE WEEK

Junior

THE BEST
MAGAZINE FOR
CURIOUS
KIDS



HIP HIP
HOORAY!

A baby pygmy hippo named Moo Deng captivates the world p10

- DID YOU KNOW?

 - Moo Deng lives at Khao Kheow Open Zoo in Thailand.
 - She was born in July weighing between 7 and 14 pounds.
 - The species is endangered, with 2,000 to 3,000 left in the wild.



This week's big news

DID YOU KNOW?

Jupiter, the largest planet in our solar system, is twice the size of all the other planets combined.



Europa Clipper launches on top of a SpaceX rocket in Florida on October 14.

Jupiter fact file



- **SIZE:** 23.7 billion square miles (it could hold 1,000 Earths)
- **DISTANCE FROM THE SUN:** About 484 million miles
- **DISTANCE FROM EARTH:** About 365 million miles
- **LENGTH OF ONE YEAR:** 4,333 Earth days
- **LENGTH OF ONE DAY:** 10.5 Earth hours
- **OFFICIAL MOONS:** 95

Jupiter moon mission lifts off

On October 14, NASA (the US space agency) began an ambitious 10-year mission to explore whether life could exist on Europa, one of Jupiter's moons. It launched Europa Clipper, the largest spacecraft the agency has ever built to travel to another planet.

What happened?

Europa Clipper lifted off from the Kennedy Space Center in Florida on top of a Falcon Heavy rocket created by the private company SpaceX. The spacecraft successfully separated from the rocket and sent signals back to NASA scientists on the ground, bringing a round of cheers and applause.

Europa Clipper, which has no crew aboard, weighed about 12,500 pounds at launch, nearly half of which was made up of fuel. With its solar panels open, it is more than 100 feet across, which is slightly longer than a basketball court.

What is Europa Clipper's mission?

The spacecraft will gather data on many aspects of Europa, which is covered in an icy shell that is 10 miles deep. But scientists will not be looking for existing life forms on the moon. Instead, they will be searching for evidence that it is possible for life

to exist there. Three of the most important requirements to make a place habitable (able to support life) are water, carbon (chemical element found in all living things), and forces that create energy, like chemical reactions or gravity. Scientists have known for many years that Europa has water, in the form of a salty ocean beneath its icy shell.

That ocean is thought to have more water than all of Earth's oceans combined. Now they are hoping to find carbon and energy. They also hope to learn more about Europa's makeup and history. Information about the moon's surface could also help NASA identify the best places to put a lander down on Europa in the future.



How will the mission be carried out?

Europa Clipper has nine scientific instruments aboard that will work together to collect information and send it back to scientists on Earth. Cameras will take high-resolution images and map Europa's surface composition, temperature, and texture. Spectrometers will use light to determine what kinds of gases are on Europa, and a thermal imager will find the warmest spots, where the ice might be thinnest. A magnetometer will study changes to the moon's magnetic field and help scientists determine the saltiness and depth of the

ocean and the thickness of the ice shell. Radar will send radio signals through the ice to learn more about the water underneath while also helping scientists measure the moon's changing gravity. The instruments will be powered by solar panels.

How did people react?

Experts were thrilled by the successful launch and the mission's potential. Bill Nelson, the head of NASA, posted on social media, "Today, we embark on a new journey across the solar system.... Our next chapter in space exploration has begun." "Europa Clipper will undoubtedly deliver mind-blowing science," said Laurie Leshin, director of NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory. "That launch was incredible," said Robert Pappalardo, a top scientist on the mission. "Now we're on our way."

What will happen next?

Europa Clipper has a long journey ahead. It will orbit the Sun, then fly past Mars in February 2025 and loop back around Earth in December 2026 to gain velocity (speed) from the planets' gravity. The spacecraft will then head toward Jupiter like a rock from a slingshot, covering 1.8 billion miles in 5.5 years. Once Europa Clipper enters Jupiter's orbit in April 2030, it will fly past Europa 49 times in four years, coming as close as 16 miles from the surface. Until then, NASA will continue to track its progress.



Hamas leader killed in Gaza

On October 16, Yahya Sinwar, the leader of a terrorist group called Hamas that is based in Gaza, was killed by Israeli troops. He is believed to have directed Hamas' attack on Israel on October 7, 2023, which set off a war that is ongoing.

Sinwar, age 61, joined Hamas in the 1980s and recently became its top leader. Since October 7, he had spent much of his time hiding in underground tunnels in Gaza. Israeli troops had been searching for him and unexpectedly found him in a building above ground. Israel announced his death on October 17, and Hamas confirmed it the next day.

Many political experts and world leaders said they hoped Sinwar's death could lead to renewed discussions about bringing the war to an end. US Secretary of State Antony Blinken traveled to the Middle East on October 21 to resume talks aimed at achieving a ceasefire (pause in fighting). However, Hamas officials and Israel's president, Benjamin Netanyahu, have said the fighting will continue.



Ancient wooden statues at the new museum

WOW!
The Grand Egyptian Museum cost nearly \$1 billion and includes conservation labs, gardens, eight restaurants, and a 3D movie theater.

Grand museum in Egypt opens

After nearly 20 years of construction and delays, the Grand Egyptian Museum partially opened in Giza, Egypt, on October 16. Considered the largest archaeological museum dedicated to one civilization, it contains more than 100,000 artifacts dating back more than 700,000 years.

The museum, which is as big as 80 football fields, was designed to reflect the Pyramids of Giza. These ancient structures are located just over a mile away and are among the most famous destinations in the world. The outside of the museum features a pattern of triangles, and its sloping ceilings reflect a pyramid shape inside. A six-story staircase rises to tall windows that give visitors a view of the Giza pyramids.

Among the museum's most notable exhibits are items from the tomb of Tutankhamun, a boy

king who ruled Egypt from about 1333 BCE to 1323 BCE. When the museum is fully open, the complete collection of 5,000 artifacts found in the king's tomb will be displayed for the first time.

Other treasures on exhibit include a black granite sculpture of Queen Nefertiti and a 26-foot-tall statue of a king named Ramses II that is 3,200 years old. Objects that depict the lives of everyday Egyptians, like clay statues of workers, are also on display.

A full opening date has not been set. Currently, about 4,000 visitors a day are allowed inside 12 galleries. About 5 million visitors are expected every year once the museum is fully open. Eissa Zidan, a director at the museum, said it is more than a place to display antiquities. "The museum is a gift to all the world," he said.



IT'S AN AMAZING WEEK FOR...

A HISTORIC SALE

A rare copy of the US Constitution (below) sold at an auction for \$9 million. Recently found in a file cabinet in North Carolina, it is one of only eight or nine known copies that were printed in 1787 and sent to the states to be approved.

WE the People of the United States, form a more perfect Union, establish domestic Tranquility, provide for the common Defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of our lives and our Posterity, do establish this CONSTITUTION for the States of America.



Qing Bao

PANDA-MONIUM

Giant pandas Bao Li and Qing Bao got a warm welcome after an 8,250-mile trip from China to the Smithsonian's National Zoo in Washington, DC. The pair are settling into their new home and will make their public debut in January. "We joyfully celebrate a new chapter," the zoo said.

SHARING SOCKS

The annual global effort known as Socktober is underway. Every October, millions of pairs of socks are collected to donate to people who are unhoused. Started in 2011 by Brad Montague and middle schoolers he volunteered with in Tennessee, the campaign caught on around the world. "Caring is contagious," Montague said.



Brad Montague's daughter



National news

DID YOU KNOW?

About 49.6 million students are enrolled in K-12 public schools in the US.



Asheville High School in North Carolina has remained closed.

Lessons from a teacher



Heather Smith (above), North Carolina's Teacher of the Year, said the storm offers opportunities to teach children about overcoming adversity and helping others. The math teacher has taken her children to serve meals to those in need while school is closed, for example. "Our kids are learning so much every day," she said.

Schools struggle to reopen after hurricane

At least 76,000 students have not been able to return to school following Hurricane Helene, a storm that struck on September 26 and caused major flooding and power outages, especially in western North Carolina and Tennessee. While some school districts plan to reopen soon, at least 16 districts in the Southeast have not set a return date.

What happened?

Helene caused significant damage to school buildings, including those in more than 20 North Carolina districts. The storm washed away many roads in the state, making it difficult for utility crews to reach the schools to restore their access to water, electricity, and the internet. Tennessee officials are still trying to determine how many

schools remain closed and how many may not be able to reopen because of the damage.

How are students being affected?

The hurricane has disrupted students' lives. Unlike when schools were closed during the pandemic, the lack of internet access has made remote learning impossible. Besides missing out on learning, studies report that children who experience natural disasters are at increased risk for mental health problems and sleep disruptions.

What is being done to help?

School districts are focused on providing stability to their communities and their students. Many schools are providing meals, water, and phone charging stations to those with damaged homes.

Schools are suggesting activities students can do to continue their learning and hosting sporting events to bring kids together. In Asheville, North Carolina, school officials explored whether drilling wells on campus would speed up reopening, but they shifted their focus to providing water in other ways.

What will happen next?

North Carolina's Buncombe County school system, which serves more than 22,000 students, said power had been restored and classes will resume on October 25. The remaining closed districts in North Carolina and Tennessee will continue working to reopen schools. Meanwhile, parents are determined to keep spirits up. "The kids are resilient," one parent told the Associated Press. "They will eventually catch up."



WORD OF THE WEEK

BALLET

The word "ballet" came into English from French, but its beginnings lie in the Latin verb *ballare*, which means "to dance." It belongs to the same family as "ball," which is a grand dance, and "ballad," which was originally a song that people would dance to.



THE WEEK IN HISTORY

October 27, 2014

Taylor Swift's album *1989* is released. On October 27, 2014, singer-songwriter Taylor Swift released her fifth album, *1989*, which marked her move from country music to pop. It sold more than 1 million copies in the first week, becoming the best-selling album of 2014. It has since sold more than 14 million copies worldwide. Swift received three Grammys (top music award) for *1989*, including Album of the Year.



Taylor Swift



Record voter turnout in Georgia

A record number of people have turned up for early voting in Georgia, taking place from October 15 to November 1. More than 300,000 people cast their vote on the first day, easily surpassing the state's previous record of about 137,000 people. By October 18, more than 907,000 voters had cast a ballot in person and more than 52,000 through absentee voting. One early voter was former President Jimmy Carter, who voted two weeks after he turned 100.



The dancers

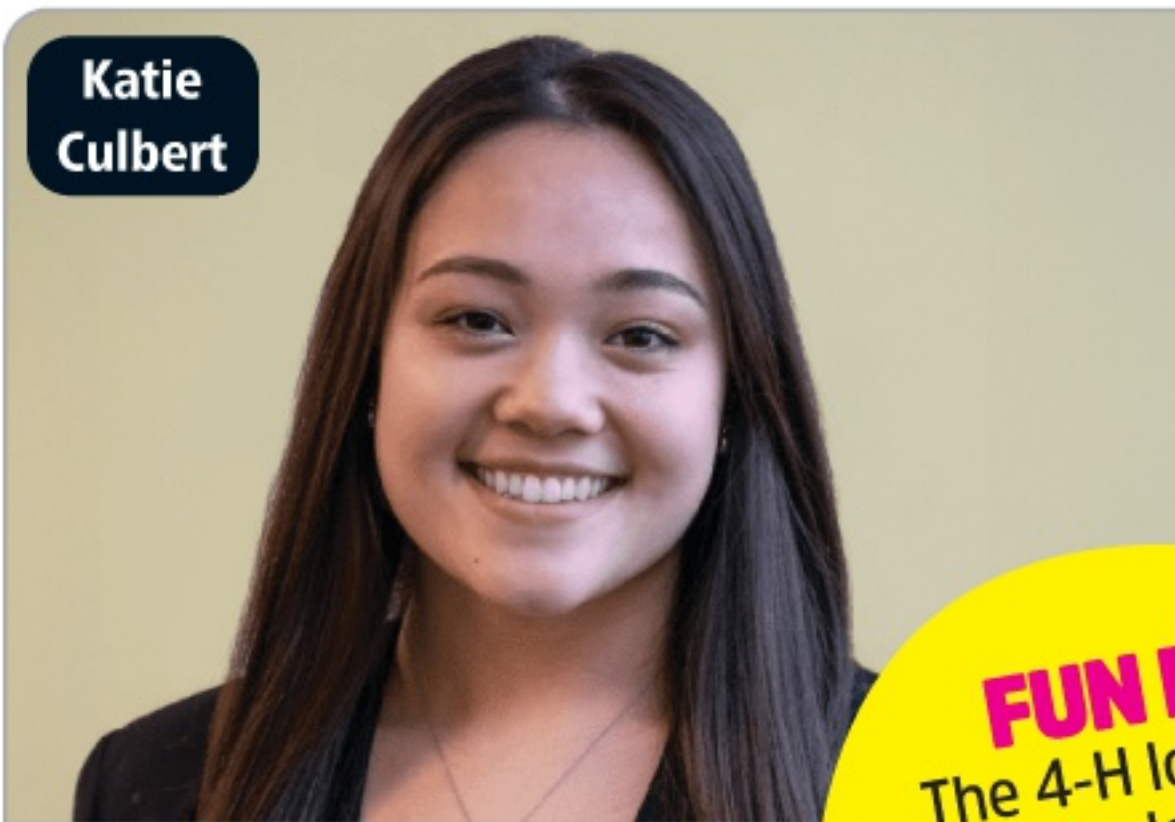
Ukraine ballet performs in the US

For the first time in 30 years, the National Ballet of Ukraine is on a major US tour, performing in 16 cities. The troupe, which wants to show that Ukrainian culture has persevered despite the war that is taking place in their country, is performing classic and new works. A portion of the proceeds from ticket sales will go toward building bomb shelters in Ukrainian schools.



Thanksgiving turkeys to cost less

People can expect to pay 16% less for a turkey this year than they did last Thanksgiving, according to an annual report on the cost of holiday foods by the Wells Fargo financial company. The price of fresh cranberries, used to make cranberry sauce, is down by 20%. Other goods may be more expensive, however. Canned pumpkin, for example, may cost 30% more than it did last year.



Katie Culbert



Kingston Ryals



Ronak Suchindra



Kaycie Hollrah

FUN FACT
The 4-H logo began as a three-leaf clover but was changed to a four-leaf clover in about 1908.

Teens win 4-H leadership prize

The National 4-H Council has named the 2025 recipients of its Youth in Action award. The four students, ages 16 to 18, were recognized for outstanding leadership in their communities. Each will receive a \$5,000 scholarship and serve as a national youth 4-H spokesperson for the next year.

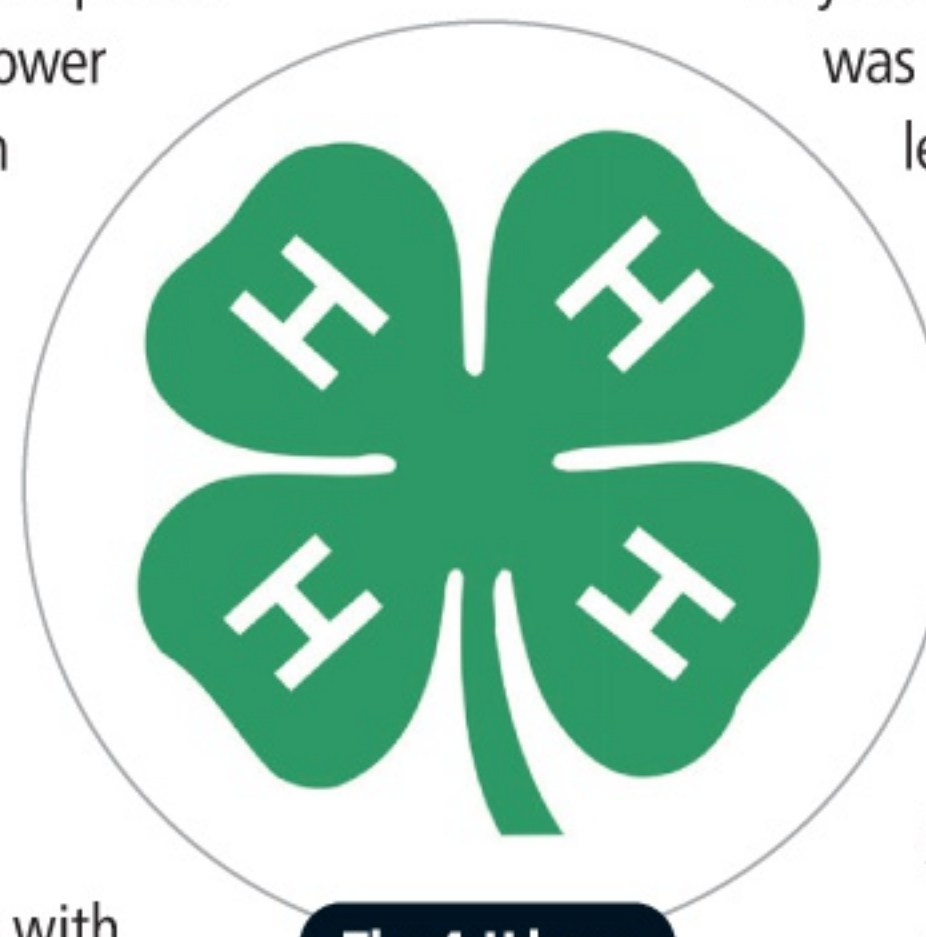
The name 4-H stands for "Head, Heart, Hands, and Health." Founded in 1902 in Ohio, it is the nation's largest youth development organization and seeks to empower young people by teaching them skills in agriculture, science, technology, and leadership. Since its founding, more than 6 million students have participated in its programs, clubs, and camps.

In 2010, 4-H began recognizing teenagers who were involved in its programs with the Youth in Action Awards. A panel of judges evaluates the applications and chooses the winners based on their leadership skills and community involvement, as well as the positive impact of their 4-H projects.

This year's winners demonstrated a broad array of accomplishments. Katie Culbert, age 18 of New Jersey, conducted research on native plants and honeybees that was published in Harvard's *Journal of Emerging Investigators*. Kingston Ryals, age 16 of Georgia, founded a nonprofit organization, The Rock Project, that helps Black students become future leaders.

Kaycie Hollrah, age 16 of Missouri, was honored for bringing a youth leadership program to her county to engage young people in creating change in their community. Ronak Suchindra, age 17 of Pennsylvania, founded Kids Connect, which offers more than 50 STEM workshops that have reached 3,000 students worldwide.

Jill Bramble, president and CEO of the National 4-H Council, expressed pride in the winners' achievements. "We are excited to see them continue to engage and inspire their fellow [4-H members]" and make an impact in their communities, she said.



The 4-H logo

THE WEEK'S SILLIEST HEADLINE

"Giant 'runaway' pumpkin blocks road in Ohio" BBC





Around the world



Havana during a blackout



Cuba

Blackouts affect most of country

Schools and businesses were forced to close after a power outage left 10 million people without electricity. Most of the country was affected after an important power station stopped working, with blackouts lasting several hours to days. The prime minister blamed fuel shortages and the poor condition of Cuba's electricity system, and Hurricane Oscar's arrival on October 20 hampered efforts to restore power.



The opening ceremony



Cali, Colombia

Nature protection summit begins

COP16, a global summit focused on protecting the world's biodiversity (variety of living things), is underway from October 21 through November 1. It is the biggest meeting of its kind ever held, with scientists, government officials, and other participants representing 196 countries. Nations will present plans to fulfill promises they made at the last meeting two years ago, including the goal of protecting 30% of land and sea by 2030.



A new street name



Niamey, Niger

Streets renamed in capital

Streets and monuments in Niger's capital city, Niamey, have been renamed to recognize local heroes. Niger used to be a French colony, and many places were named after French people. The changes include Avenue Charles de Gaulle being renamed Avenue Djibo Bakary, after a famous politician who helped Niger gain its independence from France in 1960.



Rome, Italy

A reading train

A train decorated with quotes from books has been unveiled on Rome's Metro A line. It is part of the "Every Book Is a Journey" campaign to encourage riders to switch from scrolling on their phones to reading books. Each train car has a theme, and passengers can find cards with short sections of books to enjoy and take away.



The train



Egypt

Malaria-free status

On October 20, the World Health Organization (WHO) announced that Egypt is officially free of malaria, a disease that is spread by some types of mosquitoes. Malaria kills more than 600,000 people globally every year, according to the WHO, but can be prevented and cured. Egypt has been battling malaria since the 1920s. It is the 44th country to be certified malaria-free, meaning it has had no cases for at least three years.



Mosquitoes can spread malaria.

GETTY IMAGES (6); SHUTTERSTOCK (2); THINKSTOCK; MARK D. SCHERZ



A mulberry tree



Dushanbe, Tajikistan Effort to protect worms

Lawmakers in Tajikistan approved an increase in the amount people can be fined as punishment for damaging mulberry trees. The trees' leaves provide food for silkworms, which produce silk. The government hopes that protecting them will help increase silk cloth production, which is an important but declining industry in Tajikistan.



Past Diwali celebrations



Delhi, India Fireworks off-limits at festival

Authorities in Delhi and several Indian states have banned firecrackers in the lead-up to the Hindu holiday of Diwali. Known as the "festival of lights," Diwali is often celebrated with fireworks. However, officials say the smoke and chemicals released by firecrackers create air pollution, which is already a problem in Delhi. Certified "green crackers," without harmful chemicals, will be allowed during specific hours.



Al-Khazneh



Petra, Jordan Ancient tomb discovered

Researchers have found a hidden tomb under a famous ancient structure called al-Khazneh in Petra. Al-Khazneh, which means "the Treasury," is part of a city that was built into the side of a cliff about 2,000 years ago by the Nabataean Kingdom. The discovery of the tomb, which contained 12 skeletons along with pottery and other items, could reveal more about what society was like in the Nabataean Kingdom.



One of the frogs



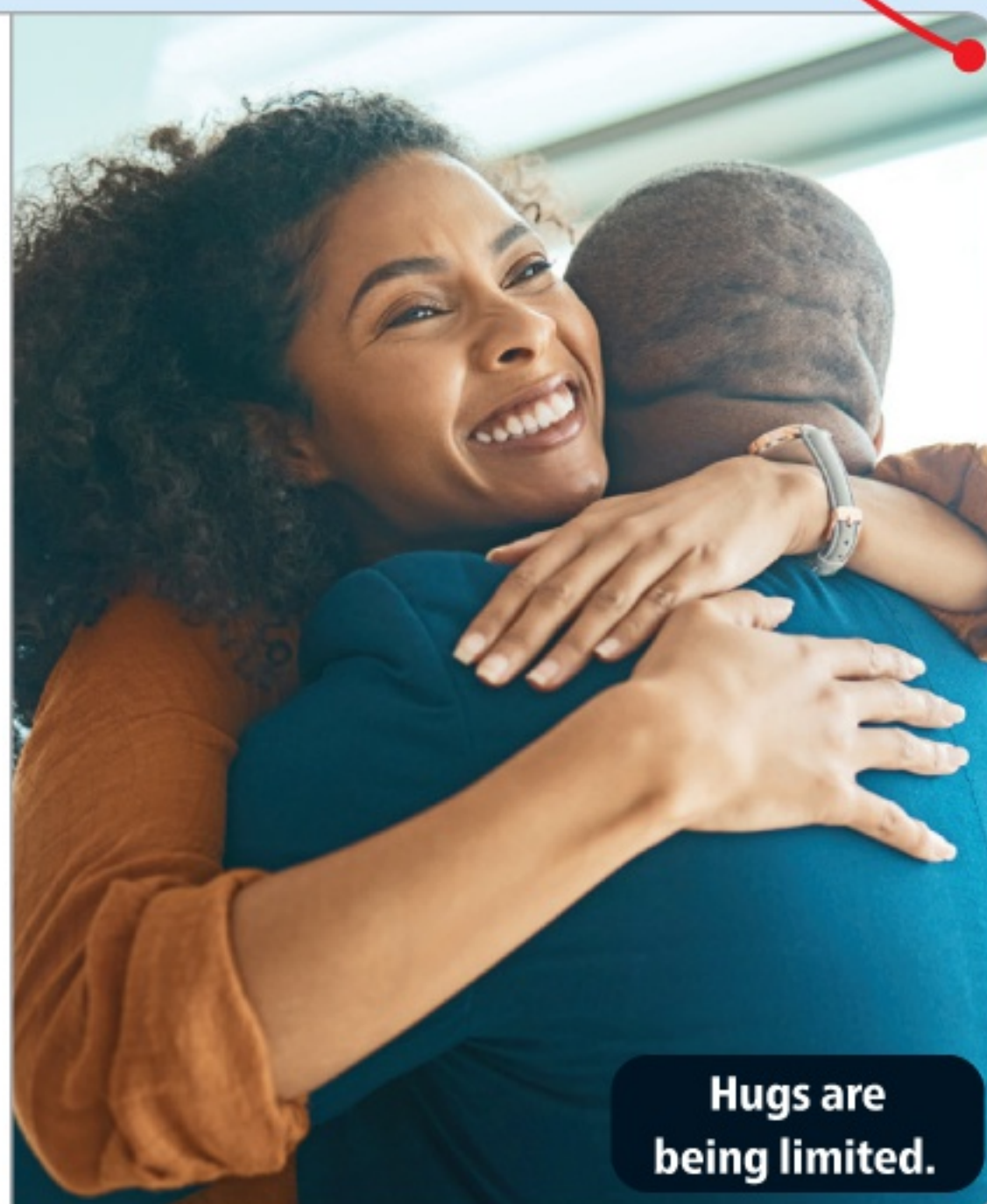
Madagascar New frogs given *Star Trek* names

Scientists have discovered seven species of tree frogs that make a high-pitched whistling noise instead of croaking. Researchers think they whistle to be heard over the loud, rushing rivers near their rainforest home. The unusual sounds prompted the team to name the frogs after captains Kirk, Picard, Sisko, Janeway, Archer, Burnham, and Pike from the sci-fi series *Star Trek*.



Dunedin, New Zealand Airport bans long hugs

Under a new rule at Dunedin Airport, people who are dropped off by family or friends before a flight are allowed no more than three minutes for goodbye hugs. The reason is because long goodbyes can cause delays for others and slow down the line of cars moving through the area where passengers are dropped off. A sign in the drop-off zone states that for "fonder farewells," people can use the parking lot.



Hugs are being limited.



Should Election Day be a national holiday?

Voting is a key part of our democracy. But does it really need a whole day off?

What you need to know

- An 1845 law made all US national elections on the Tuesday following the first Monday in November.
- Election Day is a holiday in 14 states, including Delaware, Hawaii, Kentucky, New York, and Virginia.
- Making it a federal holiday would mean many schools, banks, and other businesses would close for the day and still pay most workers.
- A 2024 survey found that 72% of Americans are in favor of making Election Day a national holiday.



WOW!

About 158 million people voted in the 2020 US Presidential election, which was the highest turnout since 1900.

Every two years, Americans vote for members of the US Congress on Election Day. Every four years, they also vote for the next President. Compared with other countries, US voter turnout is low. Only about 46% of eligible people voted in 2022 and 67% in 2020, which was the last Presidential election. Although mail-in and early voting are available in some places, voting often requires going to a school or library—which is hard for some people because of work or other commitments. To solve that, some lawmakers want to make the day a federal holiday. Others say there are better solutions. What do you think? Should Election Day be a national holiday?

Yes—it would be good for democracy

In four recent US elections, schedules were a top reason registered voters said they did not vote. Many working Americans can't get to the polls, wait in long lines, and cast their votes before or after work or during a lunch break. Making Election Day a federal holiday would make it easier for everyone to exercise their right to vote. That would increase overall voter turnout. In nations that have made the day a holiday, such as South Korea and Australia, participation is much higher. Making Election Day a holiday would also send a message about the importance of voting and serve as a reminder that it's a civic responsibility.

No—it wouldn't be worth the effort

Creating a new holiday would force schools and businesses to adjust their schedules. It would affect mail delivery, banking, and other services. And, as on other federal holidays, many essential workers at hospitals, grocery stores, and other places that remain open would still have to go to their jobs and, if they have kids, find childcare because schools are closed. It wouldn't be any easier for those workers to vote. Plus, lines at polling places could be even longer as more people vote on the same day. There are other ways to increase voter turnout, such as by expanding early and mail-in voting, that would be better for the nation.

YES Three reasons Election Day should be a national holiday

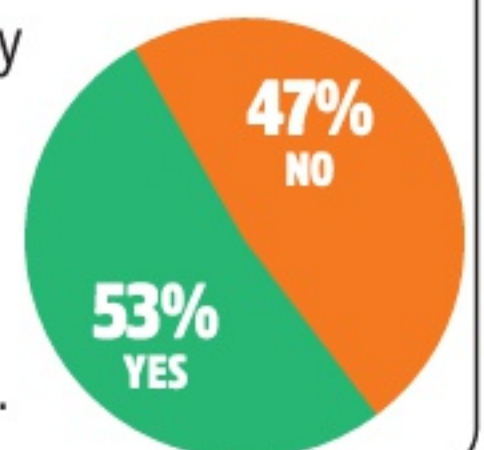
- 1 Many people can't get to the polls on a Tuesday. A holiday would make it easier for them to exercise their right to vote.
- 2 If more people could get to the polls, the low US voter turnout would improve.
- 3 Creating a federal holiday would send a message to Americans that voting is an important civic responsibility.

NO Three reasons Election Day should not be a national holiday

- 1 Holiday closures would create scheduling problems for schools and businesses and inconvenience many people.
- 2 Many essential workers wouldn't be able to take the day off, which means they could still be left out of voting.
- 3 Polling places would be even more packed on Election Day than they are now.

LAST WEEK'S POLL

Last week, we asked if sweet candy is better than sour candy. The results were nearly a tasty tie: 53% of you said yes, while 47% said no.



What do you think?

Now that you've read a bit more about this issue, visit kids.theweekjunior.com/polls so you can vote in our debate. Vote **YES** if you think Election Day should be a national holiday or **NO** if you don't. We'll publish the results next week.

The goal of the big debate is to present two sides of an issue fairly in order to stimulate discussion and allow our readers to make up their minds. The views on this page do not reflect those of *The Week Junior*, and the page is not funded by third parties.

Building election excitement

Podcast host Mindy Thomas is the co-creator of the award-winning *Wow in the World*; *Two Whats?! And a Wow!*; *Who, When, Wow!*; and more! She is passionate about uncovering fun facts to share with children who listen to her podcasts. *The Week Junior* spoke to her about why she is looking forward to the Presidential election.

What makes you get excited to discover facts about US history?

My fourth-grade teacher taught history in a lively way that had me hanging on her every word. It was at that point that I realized that US history is my history too.

Is there a past President you find particularly interesting?

I liked learning about President Theodore “Teddy” Roosevelt. Like me, he had a love for adventure and the outdoors. He helped create the National Park Service, which encompasses some of the most beautiful natural places in the US. He had a daughter named Alice who kept a snake named Emily Spinach as a pet in the White House. Speaking of pets, my dog is named Teddy.

What is your plan for voting?

I love the energy of Election Day, so I will vote in person at my polling place. My kids aren’t old enough to vote yet, but they have always joined me to cast my ballot. They might be in it for the stickers, but we also make sure to thank the volunteers.

Why do you think kids should get informed about the election?

A lot of subjects that are important to kids—such as education, climate change, and the use of social media and AI—are being discussed by the Presidential candidates. These issues affect kids’ lives every day, so I think this is a great time for families to talk about their opinions and discuss which candidate best represents their values.

How can kids have fun with the election?

One of the most fun things kids can do is to hold an election of their own. Come up with a topic that’s controversial—even a silly one like “Is cereal a soup?” Then invite friends over to debate the issue. You can make posters, hold mini rallies, and ultimately have a vote!

How will you spend election night?

My family and I plan to pull out the outdoor movie screen and projector and bundle up for a backyard election night party. We’ll have friends and neighbors join us to watch the results roll in!



Mindy Thomas

FAN OF NATURE

When she’s not producing podcasts, Mindy Thomas likes to spend time outdoors, especially kayaking, hiking, and backpacking.

DID YOU KNOW? Mindy Thomas shares her favorite facts about US Presidents and elections.



To run for President, the US Constitution (nation’s top law) requires a candidate to be at least 35 years old. The youngest President ever elected was John F. Kennedy at age 43.



Virginia has had the most Presidents born there, with eight: George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, James Monroe, William Henry Harrison, John Tyler, Zachary Taylor, and Woodrow Wilson.



Presidents come from a variety of backgrounds. Harry S. Truman sold men’s clothing, Lyndon B. Johnson was a teacher, Jimmy Carter was a peanut farmer, and Ronald Regan (above) was an actor.



Over 154 million people voted in the 2020 election between Joe Biden and Donald Trump, the highest rate for any US election since 1900. That’s like filling more than 2,000 football stadiums with people!



Kamala Harris, the Democratic nominee for President, became the first female Vice President and the first Black woman and South Asian American to hold the office when she was inaugurated in 2021.



Animals and the environment

DID YOU KNOW?

Besides other hippos, a pygmy hippo's closest relatives are whales.



Moo Deng struts her stuff.

The secret to "glass skin"

Moo Deng has inspired a major trend in skincare: "glass skin," which means a smooth, radiant, and hydrated appearance. Pygmy hippos look this way because tiny mucus glands all over their thick skin provide constant hydration, protect the skin from the sun, and give it a naturally rosy glow.



Pygmy hippo makes a big splash

There's a new four-legged superstar on the scene, and this compelling creature has captured as much attention as any celebrity on two legs. Moo Deng, a baby pygmy hippopotamus in Thailand, has become a global internet sensation, racking up millions of views as zookeepers post videos of her antics.

Translated from Thai, Moo Deng means "bouncy pork" — a fitting name for a spunky hippo who shines in the spotlight. Moo Deng was born on July 10 to parents Tony and Jona at the Khao Kheow Open Zoo, outside Bangkok, Thailand. She has six older siblings, including a brother named Moo Toon (stewed pork) and a half-sister, Moo Waan (sweet pork).



Khao Kheow Open Zoo

After the zoo introduced Moo Deng to the world by sharing photos and videos online, zookeeper Atthapon Nundee noticed a significant increase in the zoo's social media following.

People related to the young calf's expressive behavior, like yawning and screaming. Now Moo Deng has about 3 million followers and more than 125 million likes on TikTok. She has inspired thousands of memes, such as images showing her in classic movie scenes or walking the runway at Fashion Week.

Moo Deng's explosive popularity has led to a 30% increase in visitors to the zoo. To protect her from people acting inappropriately, such as throwing items into her enclosure, the zoo

recently limited her visiting hours to five minutes a day on weekends. Cameras were installed so people can watch her from a safe distance.

Moo Deng's fame has drawn attention to her species, which is endangered. About 2,000 to 3,000 pygmy hippos live in the wild, mostly in West African swamps and rivers. Newborn calves weigh 7 to 14 pounds, and at 72 pounds, Moo Deng has a lot of growing to do — adults weigh 350 to 600 pounds. To achieve that size, they spend six hours a day filling their four stomachs with leaves, roots, and fruit. On average, they live for 30 to 50 years.

Although some critics think hippos like Moo Deng should not be kept in a zoo, keepers say she is bringing needed attention to endangered animals. "I hope that the cuteness of Moo Deng will raise awareness for people to come and learn about the species," said Nundee.



PLACE OF THE WEEK

Hanauma Bay Nature Preserve, Hawaii

The Hanauma Bay Nature Preserve is a reef located in Honolulu, on the Hawaiian island of Oahu. The calm, clear waters of the bay and its plentiful fish population make it a popular area for viewing aquatic life. Snorkelers can spot sea turtles, eels, oval squids, octopuses, and sea urchins. There are more than 400 species of fish, including the Christmas wrasse, named for its green and red color pattern. The preserve has a Marine Education Center and requires all visitors to watch a short educational video encouraging them to treat the preserve like a "living museum."



A Christmas wrasse



NO MAP NEEDED

Many migrating birds navigate using the Sun, the stars, natural landmarks, or their sense of smell.



Songbirds from two different species

Birds may have migration buddies

Billions of birds migrate every year, crossing continents, deserts, and oceans to find food, warmer weather, and places to nest. Now a study has found that songbirds form connections when they are migrating, even if their travel companions are not the same species.

The study monitored the movements of 50 types of songbirds over 23 years. Researchers caught the birds in nets and put tiny leg bands on them to track their movements. Three types of songbird — yellow-rumped warblers, ruby-crowned kinglets, and white-throated sparrows —

got caught in the same nets at the same time every year. This showed that the birds were repeating patterns of behavior.

Two birds of the same species — semipalmated sandpipers — were also spotted together. Two years later, they were seen together again in a different location hundreds of miles away.

Lead researcher Joely DeSimone said the birds could be following one another to find food and safe resting places during their journeys. This kind of social network would be especially useful for young birds that are migrating for the first time.

Animal of the Week

Queen conch



Scientists in Florida have been helping queen conches find mates. Warmer water caused by climate change makes it difficult for this species of sea snail to mate, so the conches are being transported to cooler waters.

- **LIFE SPAN:** Up to 30 years
- **HABITAT:** Coral reefs, seagrass beds, and sand flats
- **SIZE:** Up to 12 inches
- **DIET:** Algae and organic matter from seagrass
- **FUN FACT:** Their outer shell is sandy colored to blend in, but inside they are bright pink or orange.



Good week / Bad week



Bees

A new vaccine (medicine to prevent an illness) was found to protect bumblebees from the harmful effects of certain pesticide chemicals, which have been deadly to bees in the past. The vaccine can be fed to bees in sugar water.



Zebrafish

A recent study showed that artificial light, especially blue light, shining at night has disrupted the sleep cycles of zebrafish. Light also causes the fish to show signs of anxiety, such as swimming less and gathering in closer groups.



“Why do raccoons have masks?”

Sydney, 12, Vermont

Kerry Nicholson
Wildlife biologist

The mask helps a raccoon see by absorbing sunlight and reducing glare, even when it's dark out. It also helps raccoons blend in with their surroundings so they can hide from predators and sneak up on prey. Raccoons can recognize other individuals from their facial markings, as no two masks are alike.



A raccoon

Do you have a question for an animal expert? Send it to hello@theweekjunior.com. Find out more about raccoons at livescience.com/52655-raccoons.html.



A popular adventure

Step by step, rock climbing has grown into a monumental sport.

Climbing up walls of rock has become a popular hobby for adults and kids alike. Buckle your harness for a trip through this sport's rise.

Getting off the ground

Since the 1700s, people have ascended mountains for fun and glory. In the 1880s, rock climbing became its own pursuit as some people began taking trips only to scale tall rocks. Three areas of Europe are known as the birthplaces

of modern climbing. In England, Walter Parry Haskett Smith became known as the "Father of Rock Climbing" after reaching the top of the iconic Napes Needle in 1886. The next year, 17-year-old Georg Winkler completed the first solo ascent of Vajolet Towers in Italy. Meanwhile, in Germany, climbers created new guidelines for "free climbing" without picks or ladders and "nature-friendly" climbing that did not alter natural rock walls.



Climbing in about 1900



Devils Tower

Locking in

By the 1900s, trailblazing climbers had begun trying out new inventions, such as steel carabiners (clips that can open and close) and iron pitons (spikes hammered into cracks in the rock). These helped climbers attach themselves with ropes to prevent dangerous falls. Pitons could also be used as handholds or footholds to help climbers pull themselves up. Enthusiasts created guidebooks identifying specific routes to follow, which could be "graded" with new classification and difficulty rating systems. In the 1930s, news spread that climbers had successfully ascended such mighty peaks as Ship Rock in New Mexico, Devils Tower in Wyoming, and the Walker Spur in the French Alps.



CHALK IT UP

Many climbers use magnesium carbonate chalk to prevent sweaty hands—a trick that "Father of Modern Bouldering" John Gill borrowed from gymnasts.

More than 10 million people in the US go rock climbing every year.

Climbers at the leading edge

Alex Honnold

The documentary *Free Solo* followed him as he became the first to climb Yosemite National Park's 3,000-foot El Capitan wall without ropes.



Janja Garnbret

At age 25, Janja Garnbret is a two-time Olympic champion. The Slovenian athlete took gold at sport climbing's Olympic debut in Tokyo, then again in the Boulder and Lead category in Paris.





of strength and skill



STEEP CHALLENGE

The world's tallest human-made climbing wall extends 262 feet up the side of a building in Copenhagen, Denmark.

LEARN THE LINGO

Successfully completing a route from start to finish is known as a "send," and doing so on the first try can be called "flashing" it.



Making big moves

As the 20th century advanced, equipment became better and safer with the introduction of strong nylon ropes, specialized climbing harnesses, and belay devices, which gave climbers a more secure way to control the rope. Over time, rock climbing branched out into new styles, such as bouldering (making short climbs without a rope on small boulders). To climb even higher, one popular method is top roping, in which the climber hangs from a rope attached to a point high above them. Others prefer lead climbing, also known as sport climbing, in which athletes clip their ropes to pre-placed bolts as they move up a route. Alan Watts introduced sport climbing to America in the 1980s by installing bolts on routes at Smith Rock State Park in Oregon. Today, about half of the park's 2,000 routes are equipped with bolts.

An indoor climbing wall



Reaching new heights

By the mid-1990s, people began building indoor climbing walls, which quickly caught on throughout Europe and North America. In the past two decades, competitions have also become popular, focusing on three main disciplines: speed climbing, lead climbing, and bouldering. The debut of climbing at the Tokyo Olympics in 2021, and its return at this year's Paris Olympics, have brought worldwide attention to the sport.

Maureen Beck

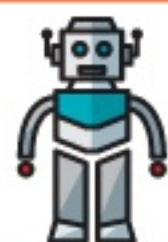
In 2014, this one-handed climber became the first American woman to win a world championship in paraclimbing (sport climbing for people with disabilities).



Veddiq Leonardo

At this year's Summer Olympic Games, Veddiq Leonardo of Indonesia won the first-ever gold medal in speed climbing, completing a 15-meter (49-foot) route in a mere 4.75 seconds.





UP IN THE AIR

Attendees at the Ig Nobel Prize ceremony throw paper airplanes during the event.



A scientist accepts the Ig Nobel Prize for his work with worms.

Silliest science awards given out

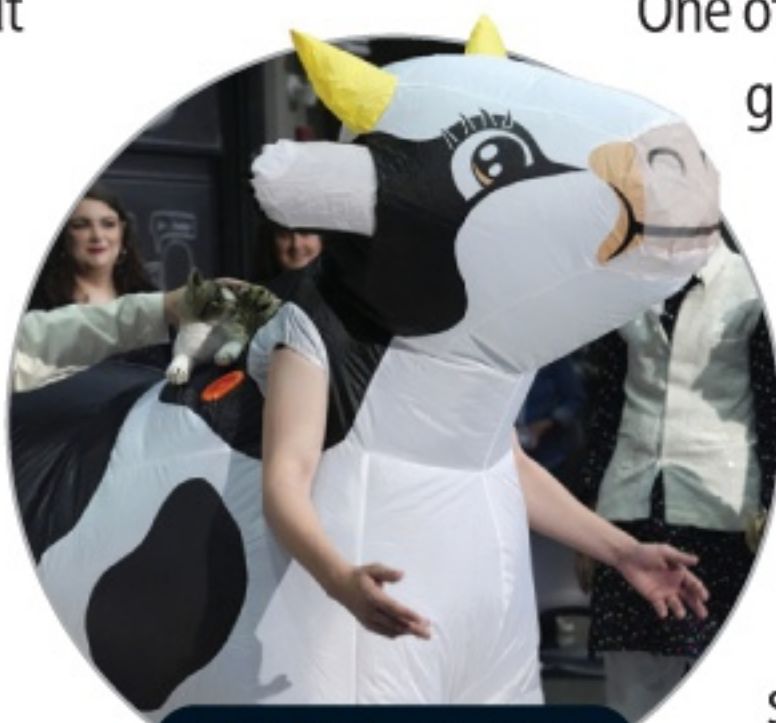
The 2024 Ig Nobel prizes were awarded at a ceremony at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The prizes are meant to spark people's interest in science by recognizing studies that "make people laugh, then think." This year, awards went to research on coin flips, an unusual breathing technique for mammals, and how scaring a cow affected its production of milk.

The Ig Nobel prizes are given out by a magazine called the *Annals of Improbable Research* and were first awarded in 1991. Traditionally, the awards are presented by previous winners of the Nobel Prize (see box) at a festive ceremony with music, jokes, and costumes. This year, five Nobel winners attended.

This year's prize in physiology (study of living systems) was awarded to researchers who discovered that some mammals, specifically mice and micro-pigs, can breathe through their butts. A prize in demography (study of human populations) went to scientists who found that reports of people living especially long lives are inaccurate. The scientist who accepted this award delivered his speech in rhyme.

The 2024 Ig Nobel in biology went to a scientist who researched how fear would affect a cow's milk production, which was demonstrated using an inflatable cow costume and a stuffed toy cat. The chemistry prize went to a team of scientists who compared the movement of worms that did and did not consume alcohol as a way of understanding chemical units called polymers.

One of them accepted the award with a giant stuffed toy worm around his neck (above).



The biology prize demonstration

The botany (study of plants) prize went to researchers who found evidence that real plants sometimes imitate the shapes of nearby fake plants. The scientists said they know the plants they studied don't have eyes, but they do have some way of "seeing" what's

around them. The probability prize went to researchers who conducted more than 350,000 experiments to determine that a flipped coin is more likely to land on the same side it started on.

The Ig Nobel Prize in physics was awarded to scientist Jimmy Liao, who studied how a dead trout swims like a live fish. "Thank you, Ig Nobel, for not ignoring the FUN in fundamental science," he said when accepting the award.

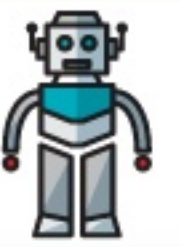
Where the name came from



The Nobel Prize medal

The Ig Nobel Prizes might be funny and playful, but they're named after an important set of awards: the Nobel Prizes, which are among the world's most prestigious honors. The name Ig Nobel is a play on the word "ignoble," which means humble or lowly.

The Nobel Prizes were created by Swedish inventor, scientist, and businessman Alfred Nobel in the categories of chemistry, physics, physiology or medicine, literature, economics, and peace. The first Nobel Prizes were given out in 1901. Alfred Nobel wanted the awards to honor people whose work offers "the greatest benefit on mankind," according to the Nobel Foundation, which oversees them.



Growing a tree from a 1,000-year-old seed

Scientists have grown a tree from a seed that dates back to between the years 993 to 1202. The seed was found in a desert cave near Jerusalem, in the Middle East. Researchers think it could be from an extinct species that was mentioned in the Bible (Christian religious text).

The seed was found in the 1980s and planted in 2010. Shoots appeared in about five and a half weeks, and leaves sprouted not long after. Researchers named the tree "Sheba."

Using radiocarbon dating (method of estimating the age of organic material, like the remains of animals and plants), scientists determined the age of the original seed. Then they used DNA (chemical that carries all the information

about a living thing) analysis to determine that the tree belonged to a family of plants called Commiphora. But Sheba didn't match any of the 200 known species of Commiphora.

Next, the team tried using Sheba's scent to identify it, but the tree didn't have a smell. Finally, after analyzing its resin, leaves, and branches, they found a clue: chemical compounds (mixtures) that were used in ancient medicines.

These compounds were known to fight inflammation and cancer.

The researchers concluded that Sheba is an extinct Commiphora and likely the source of a natural medicine called "tsori," which is mentioned in the Bible and other historical texts.



The ancient seed



Sheba is now about 10 feet tall.

WOW!
The oldest trees in the world are bristlecone pines found in California's White Mountains. They are about 5,000 years old.



Some of the shark tooth fossils

Fossils found under California school

Thousands of marine fossils were discovered during construction at a school in California. The treasure trove found at San Pedro High School includes shells dating back 120,000 years and bones dating back 8.7 million years.

The land that now makes up California was once a prehistoric sea. It was home to a complex ecosystem (group of plants and animals that affect one another) that included dolphins, fish, and whales.

Among the fossils were teeth from a megalodon, the biggest shark that ever lived, and the jawbone of a sabre-toothed salmon, which was the largest salmon ever.

The fossils have been sent to scientific institutions for further study, but students are already learning from them. One San Pedro High senior helped scientists sort the fossils and now hopes to study marine paleontology (study of Earth's past through fossils) in college.



A travel guitar that folds up



The Mogabi V3 Electric

Guitar players who want to hit the road without having to carry a heavy instrument with them can take the Mogabi V3 Electric travel guitar. Although it's the same size as a regular instrument, the Mogabi V3 folds down to fit in a bag and is small enough to carry on a plane.

The guitar's creators said it has excellent sound quality and is perfect for playing at home, in a studio, or even while out in nature. It has a built-in speaker or can be connected to an amplifier, headphones, or a recording device that captures live music.



Competition

Enter our Winter Cover Contest!



Previous winners

If you enjoy sketching and drawing, we invite you to use your skills to enter our fifth annual Winter Cover Contest! We are holding a competition to select artwork for the cover of a December issue of *The Week Junior*. As you prepare to draw, think about what kind of colorful winter image would delight readers when they get their copy of the magazine in the mail. Follow the steps below to enter, and best of luck!

Step 1: Be creative

Use the page at right to create a cover design. Each submission will be judged on creativity, originality, and how well it reflects the winter theme and the spirit of *The Week Junior*. Before you get started, brainstorm different designs that you think would be compelling and interesting to kids. Envision your artwork on the cover! Once you get started, make sure you create your submission in color. Finally, indicate the title of your drawing at the bottom of the form. If you need another form to complete your design, you can print one out at kids.theweekjunior.com/activities.

Step 2: Follow the application rules

When you're happy with your cover design, tell a parent/guardian so they can sign the consent

form. They should go to kids.theweekjunior.com/activities to print out the form, then fill it out and sign it. To officially enter, the signed consent form and a digital image of your artwork should be emailed to covercontest@theweekjunior.com.

Step 3: Meet the deadline

The deadline to enter the contest is November 13. Finalists will be notified on or about November 22. The complete rules for the competition can be found at theweekjunior.com/covercontestrules.

The prize

The grand prize winner will be featured on the front cover of an upcoming issue. Runners-up and finalists may be featured inside the magazine.

Meet our judges

The Winter Cover Contest will be judged by Editor-in-Chief Andrea Barbalich and Creative Director Dean Abatemarco, as well as these three prominent illustrators, all of whom have previously been featured in *The Week Junior*.

Johnnie Christmas

is a best-selling comic book creator and illustrator who has written several graphic novels for kids, including his latest release: *Gamerville*. His first graphic novel, *Swim Team*, received the Coretta Scott King Award Illustrator Honor.



Chanel Miller

is a best-selling author of adult books who recently published her first novel for young people. *Magnolia Wu Unfolds It All* is filled with Miller's black-and-white drawings and explores friendship, racism, and family.



Brian Selznick

is a best-selling and award-winning author and illustrator of middle-grade novels. He won the Caldecott Medal for his book *The Invention of Hugo Cabret*, which was adapted into the Oscar-winning movie *Hugo*.



THE WEEK

Junior

Allow for our cover headline to go here.

↑ Our mailing label will go in the lower left corner, so try not to draw anything too important in this space.

Applicant name: _____ Age: _____ State: _____

Parent/guardian name: _____ Parent/guardian email: _____

Title of drawing: _____

NO PURCHASE OR SUBSCRIPTION NECESSARY. Open to legal residents of the US, DC, Puerto Rico, US Virgin Islands, 8–14 years. Professional artists are not eligible. Ends 11:59:59 p.m. ET 11/13/2024. Void where prohibited. See Official Rules at theweekjunior.com/covercontestrules. Sponsor: *The Week Junior*, a division of Future PLC.



DID YOU KNOW?

This season's WNBA playoffs were the most watched in 25 years.



The New York Liberty

Historic hire



The Golden State Valkyries, a team that will begin playing in the WNBA next year, have hired Natalie Nakase (above) as their head coach. She will be the first Asian American woman to hold a WNBA head coaching job. She had been an assistant coach with the Las Vegas Aces since 2022.

NY Liberty are WNBA champs

On October 20, the New York Liberty won the WNBA (Women's National Basketball Association) championship. In Game 5 of the best-of-five WNBA Finals, they defeated the Minnesota Lynx, 67–62, in overtime (OT) at the Barclays Center in Brooklyn, New York. The Liberty are one of the league's original teams. They had made the finals five times since the league began in 1997, but this is their first WNBA title.

The Liberty ended the regular season with the best record in the WNBA, while the Lynx finished in second. The Lynx were attempting to secure their fifth WNBA title. The finals featured close competitions—there was an average of five

points between the teams at the end of each of the five games—and exciting finishes.

The series opened in New York, and Minnesota won Game 1 in OT after coming back from a 13-point first-quarter deficit. Lynx star Napheesa Collier scored the winning basket by making a jump shot with eight seconds left. The Liberty won Game 2, then the action moved to the Target Center in Minneapolis, Minnesota, for Games 3 and 4. New York won Game 3 behind a 30-point performance from star player Breanna Stewart. Another key Liberty player that day was Sabrina Ionescu, who scored a game-winning three-pointer with one second left on the clock.



Napheesa Collier

The Lynx won Game 4, forcing a deciding Game 5 in New York. In that game, the Lynx had a 34–27 lead after the first half. The Liberty went ahead for the first time with a little more than three minutes left in the third quarter. With 1:04 left in the game, Collier gave the Lynx a two-point lead, and they held onto it as the clock ran down. Then Stewart was fouled with five seconds left. The Lynx challenged the call, but in a controversial decision, the officials let it stand. Stewart sank her two free throws to tie up the game, which soon went to OT. The Liberty's defense was outstanding in the five-minute period, and after they took an early three-point lead, they never looked back.

Liberty forward Jonquel Jones was named the WNBA Finals Most Valuable Player. She averaged 18 points and eight rebounds per game.

THIS WEEK'S WINNERS...

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

On October 19, the New York Yankees beat the Cleveland Guardians, 5–2, in Game 5 of the American League Championship Series. With the win, the Yankees secured a spot in the World Series. The next day, the Los Angeles Dodgers beat the New York Mets, 10–5, in Game 6 of the National League Championship Series to clinch the other World Series opening. The series was set to begin on October 25.



The New York Yankees

MAJOR LEAGUE SOCCER

On October 19, the last day of the MLS regular season, Inter Miami CF's Lionel Messi had three goals and one assist in a 6–2 win over the New England Revolution. Miami ended the season with 74 points, a new MLS record.

SWIMMING

Kate Douglass of the US won four golds at a Swimming World Cup event in Shanghai, China, from October 18 to October 20. She also set an American record in the 50-meter butterfly.



SPORTS HISTORY

In 1965, penalty flags in the NFL were changed from white to yellow.

The Kansas City Chiefs and San Francisco 49ers

Thrilling weekend in the NFL

Week 7 in the NFL (National Football League) was full of exciting action. Two of the biggest games featured the league's undefeated teams—and one was a rematch of last season's Super Bowl.

On October 20, the undefeated Minnesota Vikings hosted their division rivals, the Detroit Lions, who hadn't lost in three weeks. Both teams gave strong performances, but the Lions pulled out a 31–29 victory. Early in the game, the Vikings were up, 10–0, but by halftime the Lions led, 21–10. With less than six minutes remaining, the Lions had a five-point lead, but Minnesota recovered a fumble, returned it for a touchdown, and went up, 29–28. The Vikings failed to score on a two-point conversion attempt. After a pair of punts, the Lions got the

ball back with just over two minutes left. Detroit quarterback Jared Goff led his team down the field and into field goal range. With 15 seconds left in the game, Lions kicker Jake Bates nailed a 44-yard field goal to secure the win.

Later that day, the undefeated Kansas City Chiefs visited the San Francisco 49ers, who had a 3–3 record. The last time the two teams faced off was in February's Super Bowl, which the Chiefs won. This time, the Chiefs came out on top again, 28–18. Their defense was dominant throughout the game and forced three turnovers. Kansas City running back Kareem Hunt led the way on offense, with 78 rushing yards and two touchdowns. The Chiefs, who are vying for a third straight championship title, are now the only remaining undefeated team in the NFL.



COACH OF THE WEEK

Coach's Name: **Yanique Newman**

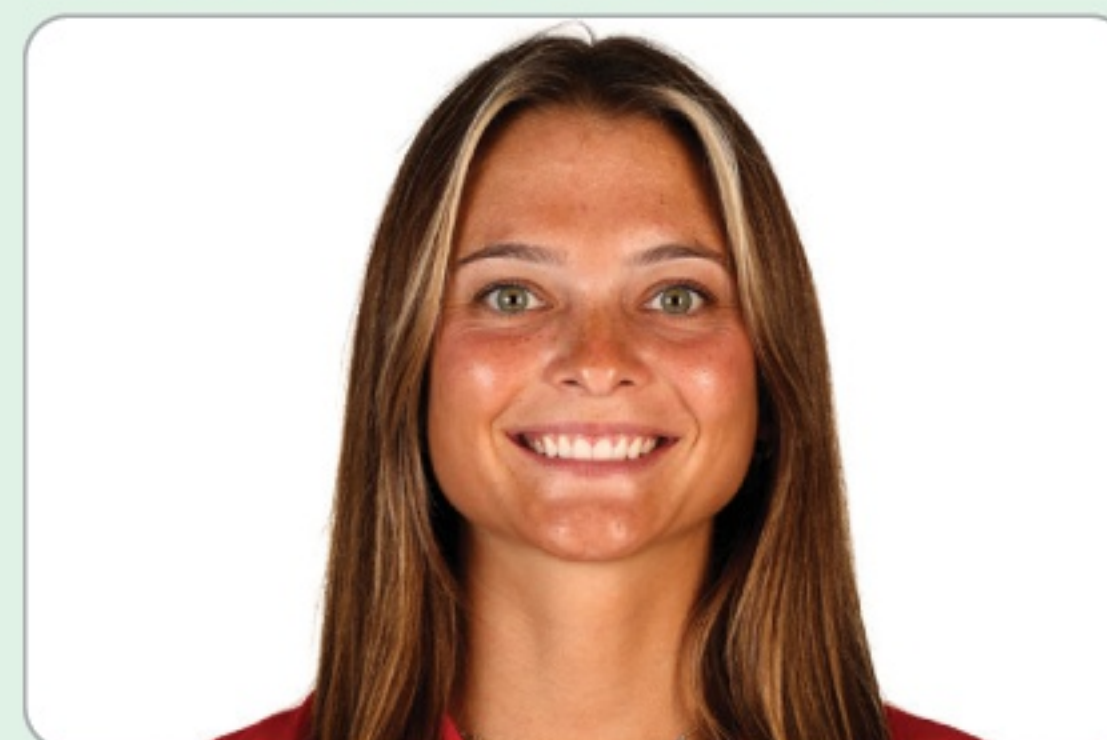
Team: **Unique Ballers (soccer)**

"Coach Yanique is amazing. She pushes us to work our hardest and always has a smile on her face, which makes drills fun. When we make a mistake, she tells us, 'Keep going because the game doesn't stop for you!' She has helped me improve my defending, communication skills, spatial awareness, and confidence! She also taught us generosity because she collects soccer items to take to kids in Jamaica. I'm grateful to have a coach like her." Meha, 10, New York



To nominate a Coach of the Week, send your coach's name, photo, sport, and team to hello@theweekjunior.com. Include your name, age, state, and a few reasons why your coach is great.

SPOTLIGHT ON...



Hope Rose

AGE: 21 SPORT: FIELD HOCKEY
TEAM: UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

Big hit My mom played field hockey in college. My sister started playing, and I went to her practices and started to enjoy it. I picked up a stick when I was 6. It came naturally to me. Also, my coaches made me feel strong and independent, and that made me want to continue playing.

Pre-game rituals One of my teammates and I always write on each other's wrists. On mine, she writes "Beast" and her number, 15. Before a big game, I also like to sit by myself in the locker room, put on my headphones, listen to music, figure out how I'm feeling, and calm down without thinking about the game.

Post-game plans If I've had a disappointing performance, I sit in the locker room and think about what I did before the game: Did I not eat right? Did I not get hydrated? Or were my skills just not on? I reflect on what I can do better for the next game. I handle losing in a similar way. I think, Could I have done something more? Did something else need to happen? Once I leave the locker room, I let it go. It's on to the next practice and the next game.

Major moments The summer before my freshman year in college, I tried out for the US U-21 women's national team and made it. I've also been on the main national team. Putting on that jersey and playing for your country doesn't get old. I get so excited to go out there and play with the best.

Her advice Give all sports a try. If you find something you love, keep practicing. You never know what will happen in the future.



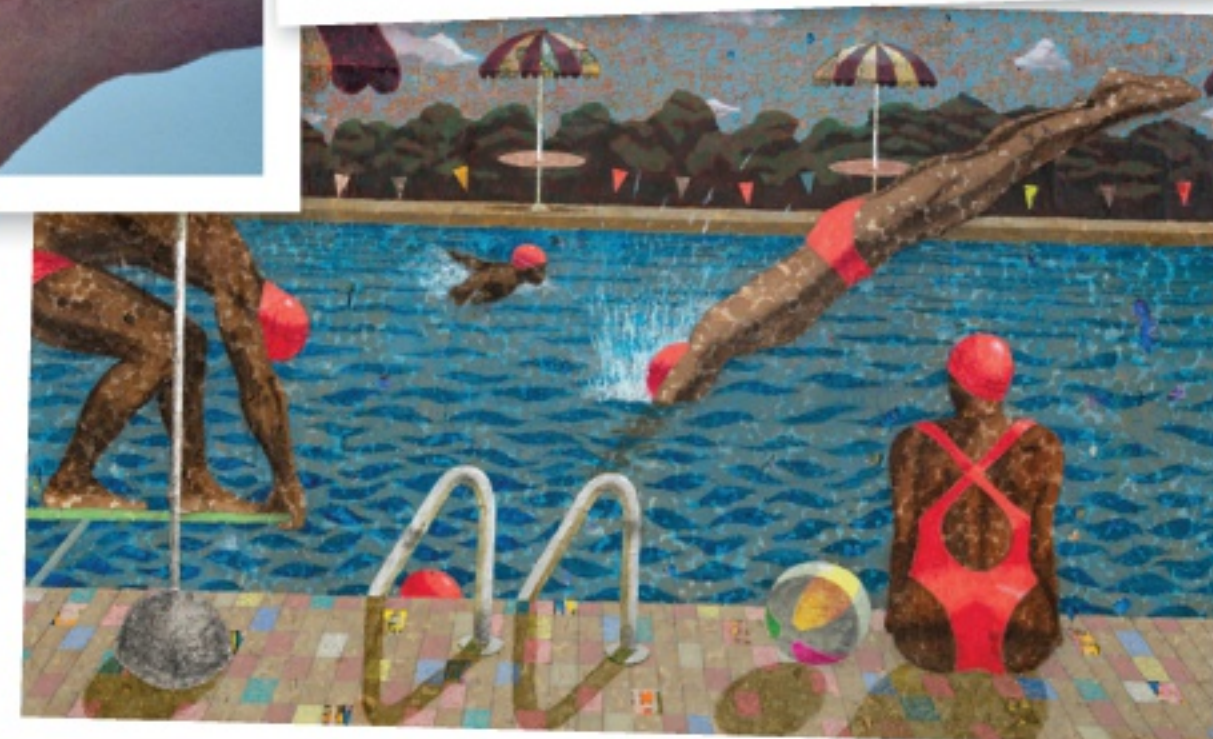
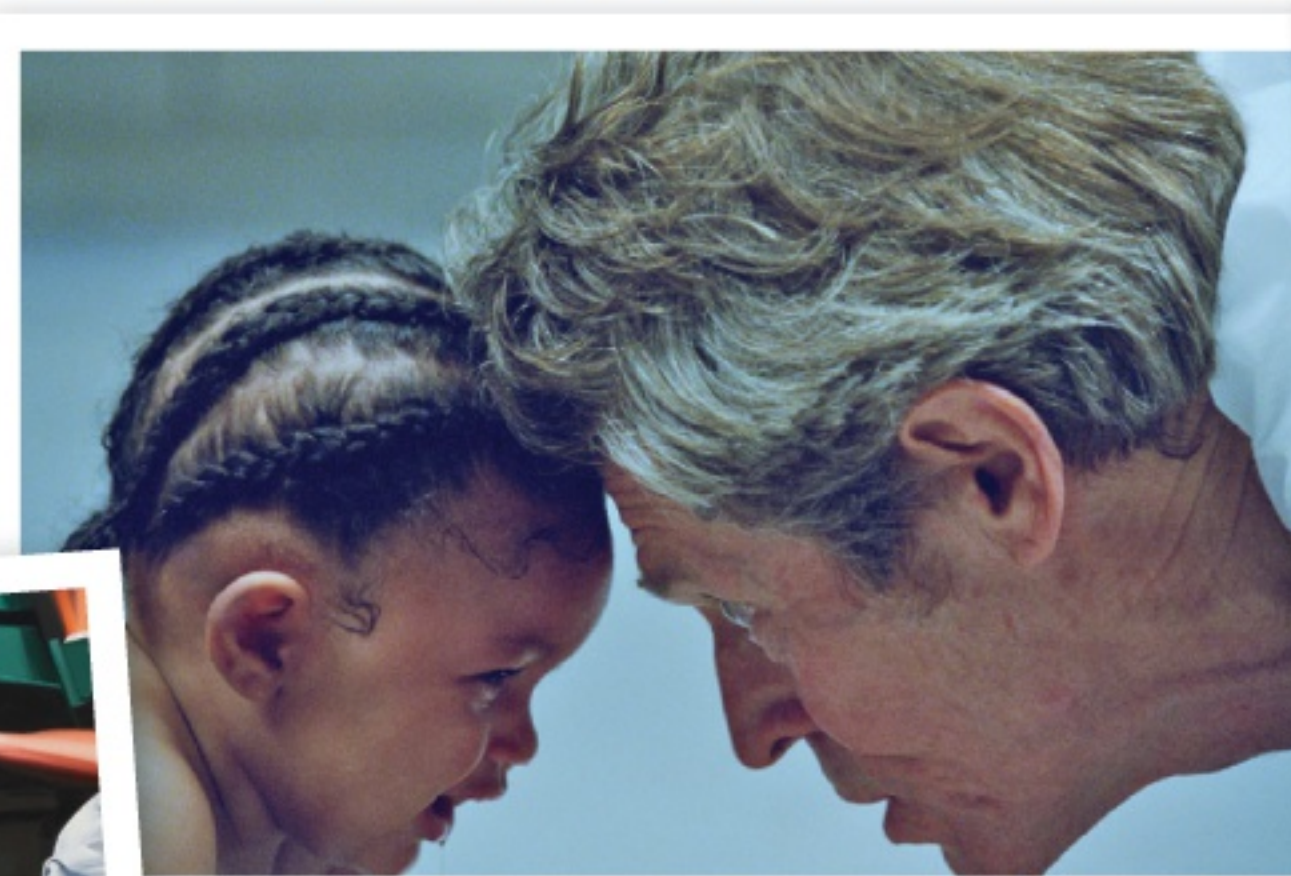


Arts and entertainment



BIG TALENT

Ernie Barnes, a noted artist, played in the National Football League for five seasons.



Some of the artwork included in the exhibition *Get in the Game: Sports, Art, Culture*

Sports-themed art on display

The San Francisco Museum of Modern Art has a new exhibition highlighting the links between sports, arts, and culture.

A new exhibition at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art (SFMOMA) in California is taking a creative look at the world of sports. *Get in the Game: Sports, Art, Culture* is filled with artwork related to competitions, athletes, and other sports-related subjects.

Get in the Game has five sections: Winning and Losing; Fan's Life; Breaking Records, Breaking Rules; Field of Play; and Mind and Body. Some pieces on display are portraits or depict scenes based on reality, while others, like Hank

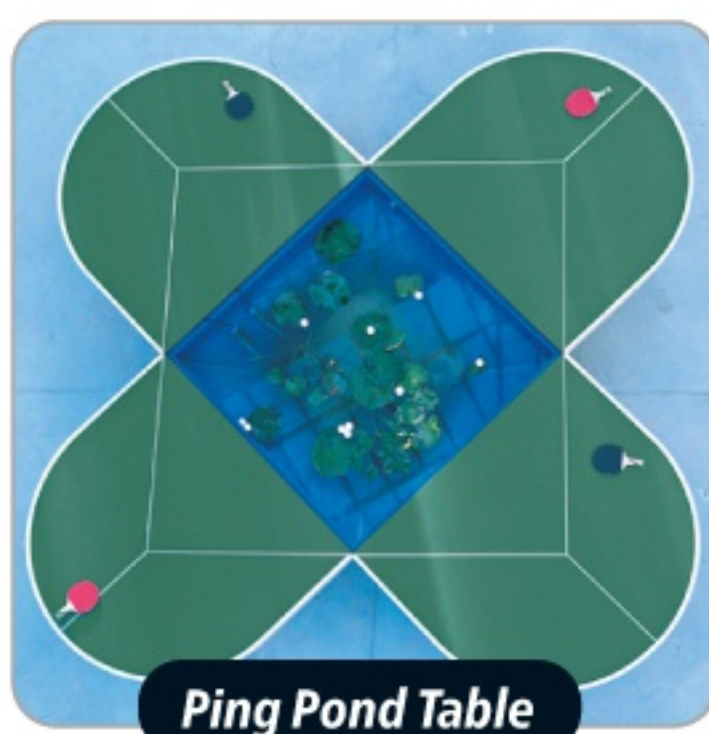
Willis Thomas' *Guernica*, are abstract. This work (above, top left) is inspired by a Pablo Picasso painting of the same name that depicts the chaos of war. Thomas made his with basketball jerseys.

The exhibition includes two pieces that are also games visitors can play. *Stadium* by Maurizio Cattelan is a foosball table made for 11 players on each side, like a real soccer game. Gabriel Orozco's *Ping Pond Table* is a clover-shaped Ping-Pong table that has water in its center. "It's a work of art that asks you to think differently about a sport that might be very familiar," Seph Rodney,

one of the exhibition's curators (person who chooses art), told *The Week Junior*.

The exhibition also spotlights equipment and shows how items such as track shoes and tennis rackets have evolved. The museum's focus goes beyond highlighting technical elements, though. "We also want to show how equipment design is influenced by all the other things happening in culture: music, visual art, politics," Rodney said.

The curators would also like visitors to realize that sports and art both require practice, mentors, good instincts, and being resilient. "We hope people come to understand that the two are similar in many ways," Rodney said.



Ping Pond Table

3 items on exhibit

An Olympic torch

Japanese artist Tokujin Yoshioka created this pink aluminum sakura torch (right) for the Tokyo Olympic Games, which were held in Japan in 2021. In Japan, cherry blossom trees, known as *sakura*, are an important part of the culture. Yoshioka used a tree blossom as inspiration for the top of the torch.



A beaded NASCAR flag

Sam Frésquez is an American artist who makes artwork with seed beads. She created this piece, *NASCAR Nation*, by laying strings of the beads on top of a flag from the racing organization.



A foot made for speed

Athletes who are amputees often use prosthetics (artificial limbs) when playing sports. One high-tech prosthetic design is this carbon fiber Össur Cheetah Xceed foot, which was inspired by a cheetah. On the bottom of it is a Nike SoleX sport sole.



COURTESY OF JACK SHAINMAN GALLERY, NEW YORK; RYAN MARIE HELFANT; COURTESY OF BETSY ODOM; CHARLES BENTON; COURTESY DAVID KORDANSKY GALLERY; COURTESY OF HOLLY BASS; DANIEL GREER; COURTESY DAVID KORDANSKY GALLERY, LOS ANGELES; COURTESY OF GABRIEL OROZCO AND MARIAN GOODMAN GALLERY; KATHERINE DU TIL; COURTESY SFMOMA; COURTESY OF SAM FRÉSQUEZ



Wizards Beyond Waverly Place

DID YOU KNOW?

The word "wizard" comes from the Old English word *wīs*, which means "wise."

Wizard family returns to TV

A popular Disney Channel series is getting a spin-off aimed at a new generation of fans. *Wizards Beyond Waverly Place* features characters from the show *Wizards of Waverly Place*, which originally aired from 2007 to 2012. It was a comedy about three siblings—Alex, Justin, and Max Russo—in a family of wizards living in New York City. Alex was played by a teenage Selena Gomez. She will guest star in the new series and is also one of its executive producers. *Wizards Beyond Waverly Place* premieres on the Disney Channel on October 29 at 8 p.m. ET. Episodes will be available on Disney+ the following day.

The new series centers on Justin Russo, played by returning cast member David Henrie. He is also an executive producer, and he told *The Week Junior* that over the years, he and Gomez had often

discussed where the Russos would be as adults. Justin is now a married father leading a regular life. Alex shakes it up when she asks him to take in Billie, a girl with magical powers who needs training. Part of the challenge, he said, is that Billie has had a tough life and "doesn't understand family and what it means to have unconditional love or to be accepted."

She is played by Janice LeAnn Brown, who told *The Week Junior* she admires how her character is "unapologetically herself."

Henrie said he and Gomez want the new show to deliver the "love, heart, and humor" that made the original

Wizards special. The series stresses the importance of using magic for good and that it cannot fix a person. "You've got to work on yourself," Henrie said. It also emphasizes the power of family: "It can be crazy and chaotic, but it'll be there for you."



Selena Gomez



THIS WEEK'S WATCH LIST



Treasure Trackers

(Rent on major platforms)

In this new adventure film, three middle school students search for a mythical treasure. After they discover it is linked to a curse from their town's evil founder, Silas Carter, they must race to find it before a local bully unleashes Silas' spirit on the town.



Max & The Midnights

(Nickelodeon) October 30 at 7 p.m. ET

Lincoln Peirce's books of the same name are the basis for this new series set in a medieval kingdom. Follow along as Max, a 10-year-old girl who dreams of being a knight, and her friends battle zombies, fight an evil sorceress, and tame a fire-breathing dragon.



Dracula's Hidden Kingdom

(PBS) October 30 at 8 p.m. ET

Transylvania is a real region in central Romania that is also the home of the fictional character Dracula. This documentary special focuses on the area's history and wildlife. It highlights the local mountains, medieval villages, and forests filled with wolves, bears, lynxes, and bats.

TELL US YOUR TOP MOVIE OR SHOW

Your pick could be featured here!

We've enjoyed getting emails from you about the films and TV series you like to watch, and we'd love more of your recommendations. Let us know about a TV series, TV special, movie, or documentary that you think other kids should watch, too. It could be a classic, a recent release, live-action, animated, foreign—you name it. Send your recommendation to hello@theweekjunior.com. Provide a few sentences about the plot or subject matter and the characters, as well as some specific reasons why you like it.





FUN FACT

Nintendo once designed a machine that would connect to a gaming system and allow users to knit sweaters.



Super Mario Party Jamboree

A wild party game with Mario

Super Mario Party Jamboree is a new minigame extravaganza. It is out now for the Nintendo Switch. It can be played solo or with multiple players.

Jamboree is the 13th console game in the Mario Party franchise. Like most Mario Party games, it is built around giant board game levels filled with competitions. There are seven boards: two classics from past games and five new ones. Each board is a different environment with special features. For example, in Goomba Lagoon, the paths can get covered by the rising tide, while in Mega Wiggler's Tree Party, the paths change when caterpillar-like Wiggler is woken up. There are 22 playable characters in Jamboree, including two new unlockable ones: Pauline and Ninji.

The main gameplay mode is Mario Party Mode. Up to four players take turns rolling dice to move around the board, and

when everyone has taken a turn, you compete in one of more than 110 minigames. Some of them can be played using a Joy-Con controller's motion controls. If you win a Showdown Minigame, you could get a Jamboree Buddy, a character that can help you as you play. Winning minigames also earns you coins, which you can trade in for stars. Whoever has the most stars at the end of the board game is the winner of that round.

Jamboree has several new game modes. One of them is Bowser Kaboom Squad, in which up to eight players team up to bring down an imposter of Mario's greatest rival. Another new mode is the Koopathlon, an online race.

The game is full of fun action, but if you want it to be trickier, you can switch from Party Rules to Pro Rules, which makes the game more about skills and strategy than luck.



PODCAST OF THE WEEK

MUSICLAND STORIES

Major podcast platforms

Explore the origins of music through adventurous tales set in deserts, forests, oceans, and outer space. Along the way, you'll learn about different culture-based genres, such as Puerto Rican Bomba, and find out about instruments such as the Australian didgeridoo.



WEBSITE OF THE WEEK

270 TO WIN

270 TO WIN

270towin.com

To become the US President, a candidate needs to win at least 270 votes in the Electoral College. Every state and the District of Columbia has a set number of votes, which usually go to the candidate who wins the state's popular vote. Click on this site's interactive map to play with possible outcomes.



GAME OF THE WEEK

STEP SAFARI

Apple App Store, Google Play

This mobile game is based on physics and puts you in the shoes (actually, the claws) of birds including canaries, emus, and pigeons. Your goal is to guide the animals as they walk across dangerous water paths and dodge creatures that would like to eat them.





BOOK OF THE WEEK

Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Hot Mess

By Jeff Kinney

(Amulet)

The 19th book in the blockbuster Wimpy Kid series takes place at the beach house where Greg's mom used to vacation with her family. Even though Greg's grandma can't go, she wants the entire family, including his cousins and aunts, to enjoy time at the house and bring her back a group photo for her 75th birthday. While Greg doesn't like the beach, he's looking forward to trying new restaurants. But the trip gets off to a rocky start. His family arrives late, and Greg has to sleep on the floor because all the beds are taken. His aunt and mom are fighting over something that happened a long time ago. And instead of going out to dinner, his family insists on cooking meals at the house. One night they have his grandma's special meatballs, which she had made and sent with them. Finally, Greg's mom allows everyone to choose their own adventure for the last day. As Greg tries to become a social media star by giving food reviews, he accidentally reveals the location of his aunt's famous dog. Will anything on this trip go Greg's way? A twist ending that involves the meatballs will leave you laughing.



ASK THE AUTHOR

Jeff Kinney

We spoke to the author of the Book of the Week.

What inspired this book?

I thought the phrase "hot mess" was funny. I wanted to write a plot to fit that title.

Why do you think kids relate to Greg?

Greg is like a comedian who shares his faults in a funny way. I think kids relate to him because they may see those faults in themselves and can laugh about them.

Did you always draw?

Growing up, it was very difficult for me to pay

attention in class, and I'd draw. I think teachers thought I wasn't listening to them, but drawing is what helped me concentrate on what they were saying.

What do you think is more challenging—writing or illustrating?

Both are difficult for me and don't come naturally.

Favorite food from your childhood?

McDonald's Chicken McNuggets



4 books to get ready for Election Day

Find out about the history of voting, how the US government works, and more.

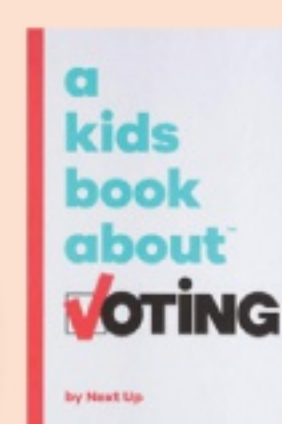


The Hill: Inside the Secret World of the US Capitol

By Kate Andersen Brower

(Quill Tree Books)

This book reveals behind-the-scenes facts about the US Capitol, where Congress (the branch of government that makes laws) meets. The city's haunted history, including ghost sightings, is fascinating to discover too. *Ages 10 and up*



A Kids Book About Voting

By Next Up

(A Kids Book About, Inc)

Did you know only about 50% of eligible Americans usually vote during Presidential elections? This inspiring book explains why voting for President and other state and local officials is important. A timeline that details how voting rights have changed through the years is interesting. *Ages 7–10*



Presidential Elections and Other Cool Facts

By Syl Sobel

(Sourcebooks Explore)

The fifth edition of this popular book provides a step-by-step look at how the President is chosen, starting with the campaign trail. It also explains the rules of the Electoral College. In the "Famous Firsts" section, you'll discover that the first female Presidential candidate ran in 1872. *Ages 7–10*



Your Vote Matters: How We Elect the US President

By Rebecca Katzman, illustrated by Ellen Duda

(Scholastic Inc.)

Get an overview of the US Constitution and the three branches of government with this colorful book that also highlights the importance of voting. Charts, maps, and photos make the information fun to read about. *Ages 7–12*

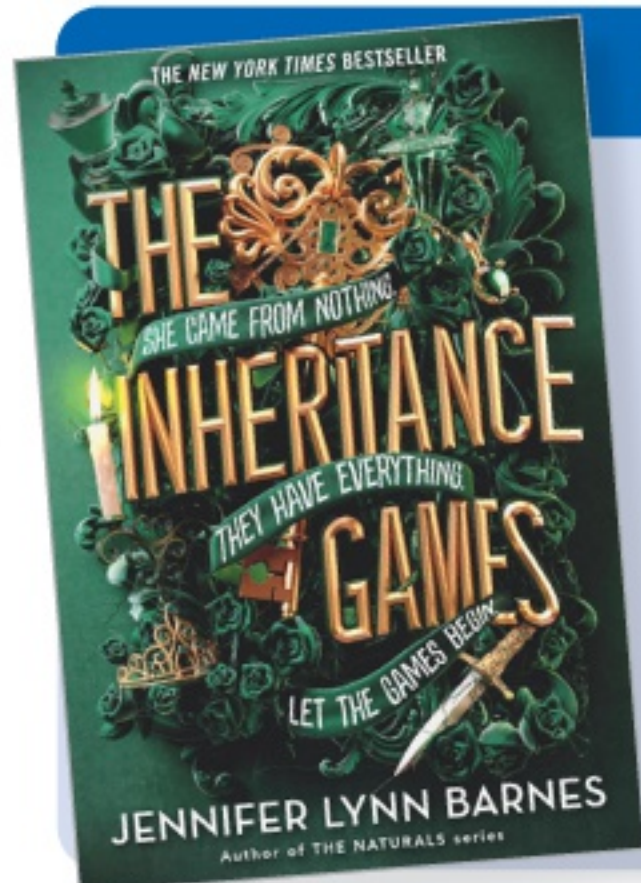


READER RECOMMENDS

The Inheritance Games By Jennifer Lynne Barnes

"This book series is about a girl named Avery who has been listed in the will of a multi-billionaire, Tobias Hawthorne. She has to solve puzzles and figure out the mystery of the inheritance with the four Hawthorne brothers: Jameson, Grayson, Xander, and Nash. I recommend this to anyone who loves a good mystery. The author makes you jump out of your seat." Quinn, 11, California

Do you have a book to recommend? Send your review to hello@theweekjunior.com.





How to...

Plan a fun election party

Use these ideas to mark a big moment in our democracy with family and friends.

Election Day is almost here. On November 5, the Democratic nominee, Vice President Kamala Harris, and the Republican nominee, former President Donald Trump, will face off to see who becomes President. Americans will also cast votes for senators, representatives, governors, and local politicians. It's an important part of our nation's democratic process, so why not celebrate with an election party? Here's how to plan one.



Get festive

Break out the red, white, and blue decorations. Use craft supplies you already have to make a vote garland (see the box at top right for instructions). You can also make patriotic snacks and snack holders (see the box at bottom right for instructions). Try adding elephants (a symbol of the Republican Party) or donkeys (for the Democrats) to your decor.

Cast ballots

Everyone can vote at your election party! Create ballots so family members can choose their top candidates. You can also include other things to vote on, like what to watch on movie night or what your next family book club pick should be. Make a ballot

box (a decorated shoebox with a slot cut into the top works great). Then tally the votes and announce the winners during the party.

Watch the results

The main event is watching the election results on TV. Some polls across the country close at 6 p.m., but many states close theirs later. Still, you can start watching in the early evening because news stations will air informative segments before the results are final.

Map it out

News programs will be focused on which states each Presidential candidate wins. A candidate needs at least 270 total votes in the Electoral College to win the Presidency, and they receive these votes from different states. To keep track of the results, create your own electoral map placemat (see instructions below).



Be patient

The new President is usually announced on election night. In 2020, though, it took several days to count all the ballots and declare the winner. Several states have since made changes to enable faster vote counting. Some states may still take days to report their results.



Make an electoral map placemat

Instructions

1. Cut a paper bag into a 12-by-18-inch rectangle. Use red and blue paint to make stripes then let them dry.
2. With an adult, you can go to kids.theweekjunior.com/activities and print out the Electoral College Map. Use a glue stick to attach it to the paper bag.
3. On election night, use pencils, markers, or crayons in red (for the Republicans) and blue (for the Democrats) to color in each state based on its winner.





Create a vote garland

What you need

- Letters, stars, and flag templates (download them with an adult from kids.theweekjunior.com/activities)
- Recycled cardboard boxes, such as cereal or other dry-food boxes
- Recycled aluminum foil box (optional, for metallic stars)
- Scissors
- Tape or glue
- Foam adhesive dots (optional)
- String, like baker's twine

Instructions

1. Print out the templates. With scissors, trim off some of the white space around the designs.
2. Tape the letter and star templates to the colorful side of the cardboard pieces. Stick the flag templates onto the cardboard's plain brown side.
3. Use scissors to cut along the outlines of the letters and shapes, slicing through the paper and cardboard at the same time.
4. Tape or glue the letters to the cardboard flags (or use foam adhesive dots to make them raised).
5. Spell the word "VOTE" with the letter flags. Place a star between each one. Turn them all upside down and lay a string across their top edges, adding extra length on either side for hanging. Cut the string, then glue or tape it to the backs of the stars and flags.

Prep your party snacks

Election trail mix

In a large bowl, mix together 6 cups cereal squares (like Rice Chex), 3 cups yogurt-covered pretzels, 1 cup M&M'S (single-colored ones are sold at party stores or online), 1 cup yogurt raisins or cranberries, 1 cup mini marshmallows, and 1 cup pretzel sticks. Spoon mix into decorated snack cups (instructions below).

Polka-dot cups

Make a dot stamp by tracing a dime onto a white eraser. Have an adult help you use a craft knife to cut it out. Spread a thin layer of paint onto a paper plate, dip the stamp into the paint, and stamp the dot onto the cup. For striped cups, use a paintbrush to create lines.

Patriotic popcorn bags

Use a paintbrush to make stripes (or any design you like) on brown paper lunch bags. When the bags are dry, cut them down to your desired height with pinking shears (to make a zigzag edge) or regular scissors. Fill with popcorn.





Puzzles



Crisscross

Each of these things associated with making movies fits into this grid. Can you find where each one goes to complete the grid?

3 letters

CGI
SET

4 letters

CREW
CUTS
FILM

5 letters

FOCUS
SCORE

6 letters

CAMERA
EXTRAS
SCENES
STUDIO

7 letters

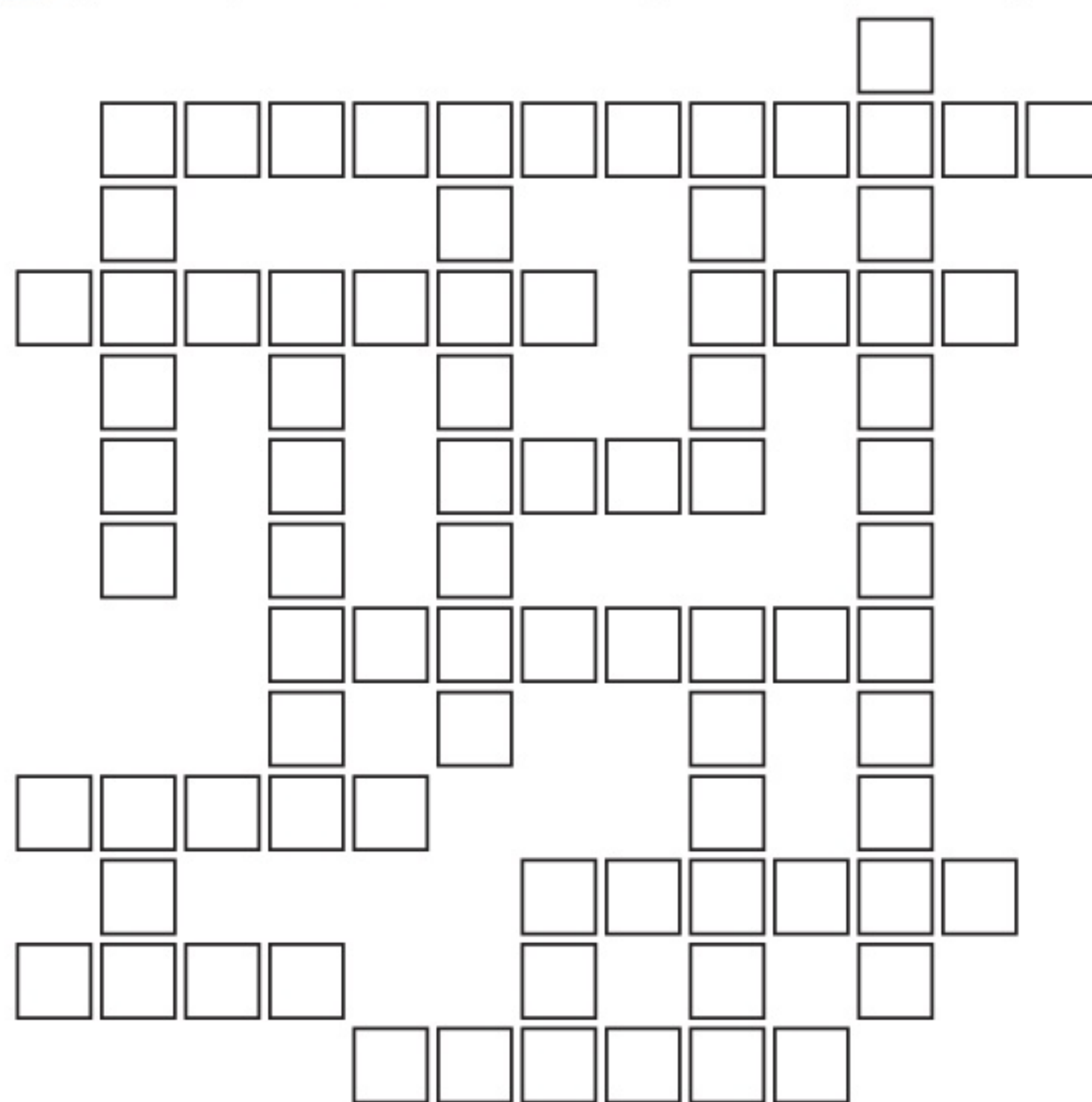
CLAPPER
CUE CARD

8 letters

DIRECTOR
PRODUCER

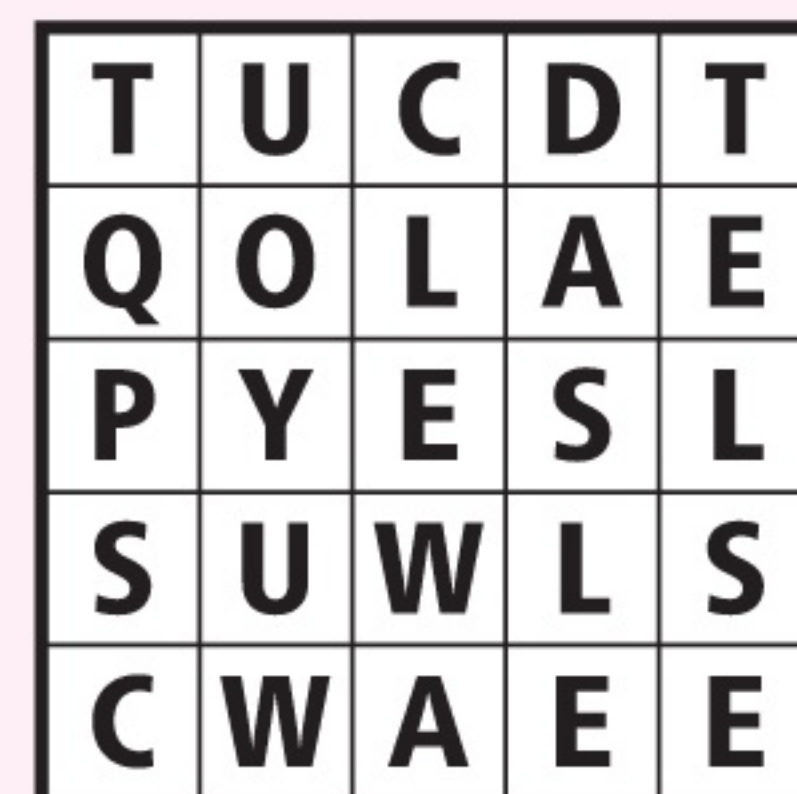
12 letters

SCREENWRITER
SOUND EFFECTS



Take five

Five 5-letter words associated with going to the gym are hidden in this grid. For each one, the first letter is somewhere in the first column, the second is somewhere in the second column, and so on. Can you find all five?



ALL THE SAME

Each answer contains the letters U-G-H. Those letters have been placed for you. Can you figure out the words? (NEED A HINT? Check the bottom of the page.)

1. "No more, thanks, that's ____"

UGH

2. Response to something funny

UGH

3. In one side and out the other

UGH

4. Opposite of nice in Santa's list

UGH

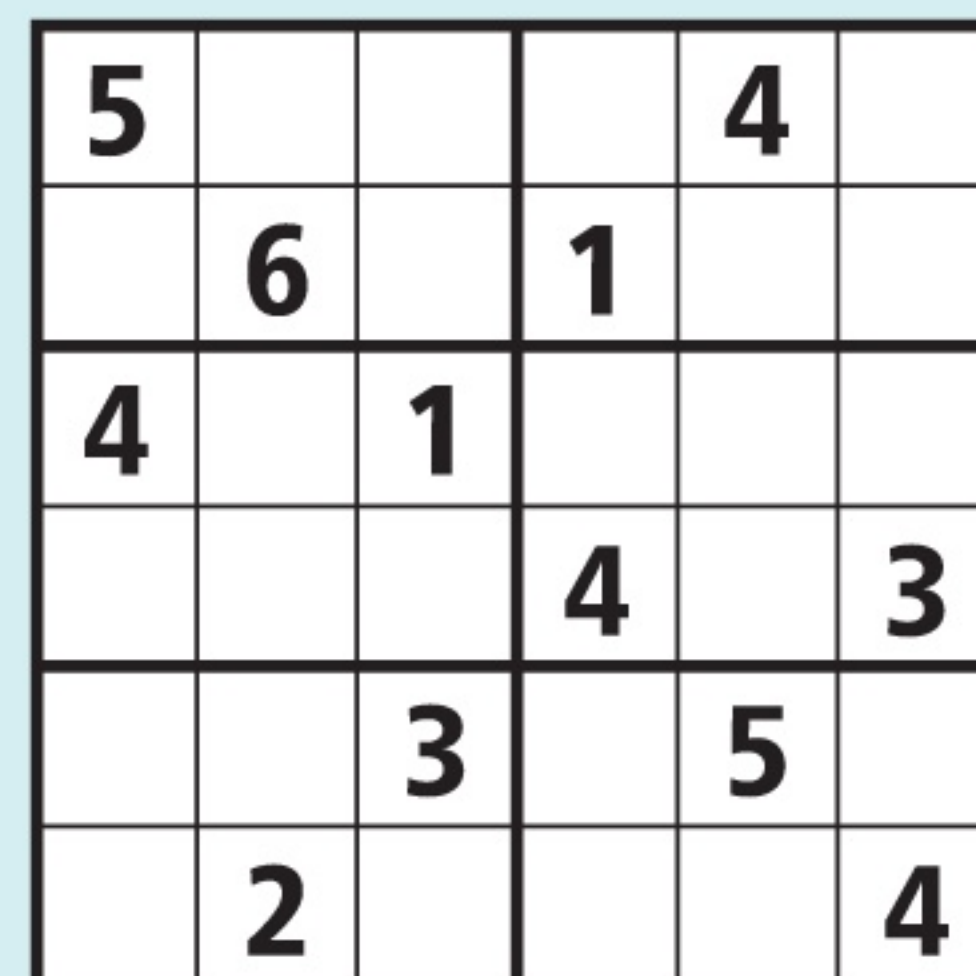
5. Archie's hat-wearing friend on TV and in comic books

UGH

ANSWERS
CAN BE
FOUND ON
PAGE 29.

SUDOKU

To complete the grid, place the numbers from 1 to 6 exactly once in each row, column, and 2x3 bold-lined box.



Spot the difference

These two pictures of election buttons appear to be the same, but take a closer look. There are actually five differences. Can you see them?





An upside-down museum

A new museum in Berlin, Germany, is full of optical illusions and rooms that look like they are the wrong way up. Called The Upside Down, it claims to be Europe's largest interactive experience. Its launch follows the success of another location that opened four years ago in Amsterdam, in the Netherlands. Visitors can explore 21 unusual rooms that are designed to create "mind-bending" moments and fun photos. Activities include diving into a ball pit, getting up close to a giant hair dryer, and performing circus tricks upside down.



Voting with delicious desserts

A bakery in Pennsylvania is holding its own sort of Presidential election—with cookies. In Lochel's Bakery's poll, the sale of one red cookie counts as a vote for Republican candidate Donald Trump, while a blue cookie supports Democrat Kamala Harris. The poll began as a joke in 2008, but it has grown into a beloved event that happens every four years. Although it is "definitely not scientific," said owner Kathy Lochel, three of the past four cookie best-sellers matched the winner of the national election, and this year's sales are on track to be the biggest yet.



The world's speediest puzzlers

Many people enjoy taking their time to complete a jigsaw puzzle, but for competitive puzzlers, it's all about speed. This fall, more than 3,500 top puzzlers of all ages gathered to take part in the World Jigsaw Championships in Valladolid, Spain. At the event, people could work individually or as a team to complete either a 500- or 1,000-piece jigsaw puzzle. There were strict rules, and singing was specifically banned because it could distract other participants. This year's winner of the individual title was Kristin Thuv from Norway, who completed a 500-piece puzzle in 37 minutes and 58 seconds.

Real or fake?



A soup for hot sauce lovers

The latest product from the Huy Fong company, maker of a popular sriracha hot sauce, is sure to heat up dinnertime. The new Sriracha Soup looks similar to creamy tomato soup but tastes like chili peppers. It packs a piquant punch at about 3,000 Scoville units (a measurement of spiciness). Huy Fong worked with extreme eater Mike Jack to reveal the fiery-flavored meal in an online video before its release in grocery stores across North America. "Slurp at your own risk," said Jack. Is this a true story, or are we just blowing smoke?*

*Fake! There's no such product as Sriracha Soup, but Mike Jack didn't need it to get his spicy fix. He poured two bottles of sriracha into a bowl and gulped down 2 pounds, 7 ounces of pure hot sauce in three minutes, earning a world record.



Your turn

Editor's note

We've been looking forward to Election Day (November 5) for months, and now it's almost here! So this week we thought it would be fun to share ideas for planning an election party (p24). We've made things easy and



festive for you, from decorations to snacks, and we hope our suggestions will inspire you to celebrate. If you create any of the crafts or recipes from this story, we'd like to know about it! Take a photo of what you make,

write a sentence or two about what's in the picture, and have an adult email it, along with your first name, age, and state, to hello@theweekjunior.com. In fact, we'd love to see any election-related photos you'd like to send us—whether you go with your parents to vote at the polls or hold an election at home, as podcast host Mindy Thomas suggests on page 9. We'll publish a selection of photos we receive in a future issue. It's your democracy too, and we hope you get involved!

Andrea Barbalich
Editor-in-Chief

CHARITY OF THE WEEK



When We All Vote

This organization's goal is to increase voter participation in all states. It helps Americans register to vote and informs them about their voting rights. It also shows people how to check their voter registration status and provides them with voting resources. During the 2020 election, it helped more than 500,000 people start or complete their voter registration. Find out more at whenweallvote.org.



Emily, 10, Anna, 12, Anya, 12, and Katie, 12, North Carolina

Raising funds for Helene

“We saw the news about Hurricane Helene and wanted to help. We decided to hold a bake sale to raise money for supplies for people in western North Carolina, one of the affected areas. On our day off from school, we baked cookies and brownies and sold them on

our street corner. Our original goal was \$300, but with so much support from the community, we raised a total of \$1,162! We hope this inspires other kids to take action and to find ways to help those in need too.”

Have you done something interesting or raised money for a cause you care about? Whatever you're up to, we want to hear about it at hello@theweekjunior.com.

JOKE OF THE WEEK
Where do penguins go to vote?
The South Poll

Your dream for the nation

Arjun, age 10, of Texas, likes that a democracy allows all members of society to participate and have equal representation. Arjun believes that a democracy empowers people to have a say in their own destiny. As a reader of *The Week Junior*, you may have opinions about the US. If so, we want to hear them! Go to kids.theweekjunior.com/activities to download a form, like the one at right. Fill it out, then have an adult email it to us at hello@theweekjunior.com. We'll feature some of the submissions on this page in future issues.

First name Arjun Age 10 State Texas

What do you like most about democracy and why?
I like that democracy has the equal representation and participation of all members of society. Democracy empowers people to have say in their destiny.

If you could describe democracy in three words, which words would you choose?
Self-rule
Justice
Freedom

What is your hope for democracy in the US?
My hope is that the rich getting richer and the poor getting poorer must stop. Also Poverty & corruption must be terminated.

Draw a picture of what democracy looks like to you.

THE WEEK
Junior

IT'S YOUR TURN

Email your news, views, and photos to hello@theweekjunior.com.



YOUR PHOTOS

We'd love to see pictures you've taken or pictures with you in them! Have an adult email them to us at hello@theweekjunior.com, along with anything you would like us to know about what's happening in the photo.



"We love *The Wild Robot*! Owen read it with his class last year." Caleb, 11, Owen, 8, and Jake, 5, Ohio

"We like *The Week Junior* so much, we wanted our skeletons to enjoy it, too!" Maggie, 9, and Audrey, 12, New York



"The Photos of the Week section inspired me to make this piece of art." Austin, 8, Colorado

Statement of ownership

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	Average no. of copies each issue during preceding 12 months	Single issue nearest to filing date
A. Total No. Copies Printed	110,444	123,667
B. Paid and/or Requested Circulation		
1. Paid/Requested Outside-County mail subscriptions stated on Form 3541	108,465	121,667
2. Paid In-County subscriptions stated on Form 3541	0	0
3. Sales through Dealers and Carriers, Street Vendors, Counter Sales, and Other Non-USPS Paid Distribution	0	0
4. Other Classes mailed through the USPS	0	0
C. Total Paid and/or Requested Circulation	108,465	121,667
D. Free Distribution by Mail		
1. Outside-County as stated on Form 3541	0	0
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E. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution	2,079	1,787
F. Total Distribution	110,444	123,667
G. Copies Not Distributed	0	0
H. Total	110,444	123,667
I. Percent Paid and/or Requested Circulation	98.21%	98.60%



Puzzle answers (from page 26)

SOUNDEFFECTS
T I O R
CUECARD CREW
D L E U E
I A CUTS N
O P T W
E R A I
SCORE M T
G SCENES
FILM E R R
EXTRAS

Take five
towel
quads
pulse
sweat
cycle

All the same
1. enough
2. laughter
3. through
4. naughty
5. Jughead

5	1	2	3	4	6
3	6	4	1	2	5
4	3	1	5	6	2
2	5	6	4	1	3
6	4	3	2	5	1
1	2	5	6	3	4



Quiz answers (from page 30) 1 Bouncy pork 2 a) 14 3 False. Climbing debuted at the Tokyo Olympics in 2021. 4 Meatballs 5 c) Europa 6 True 7 c) Virginia 8 b) Justin Russo 9 True 10 a) Goomba Lagoon 11 Sheba 12 False. Early voter turnout is at a record high. 13 c) San Francisco 14 Kansas City Chiefs 15 b) Cookies

We want to hear from you! To have your letters, photos, nominations, recommendations, or ideas considered for inclusion in the magazine, please include your full name, age, and state with your submission. By emailing your submission to us, you give *The Week Junior* consent to publish it in the magazine and online. Please get your parent/guardian's permission before sending anything to us.



Quiz

How much of this week's news can you remember?

1 What does the pygmy hippo Moo Deng's name mean when translated from Thai?

2 Election Day is a holiday in how many US states?

a) 14 b) 24 c) 34

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

3 True or false? Climbing made its Olympic debut at the 2024 Paris Games.

True ☐ False ☐

4 In *Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Hot Mess*, what special food did Greg's grandma make?

5 NASA recently launched a mission to explore which of Jupiter's moons?

a) Callisto b) Ganymede c) Europa

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

6 True or false? One of this year's Ig Nobel Prize winners found that some mammals can breathe through their butts.

True ☐ False ☐

7 Which state is the birthplace of the greatest number of US Presidents?

a) Massachusetts

b) Pennsylvania

c) Virginia

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

8 The new spin-off series *Wizards Beyond Waverly Place* centers on which character from the original series?

a) Alex Russo b) Justin Russo c) Max Russo

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐



9 True or false? Songbirds can make connections with birds of other species when they migrate.

True ☐ False ☐

10 In the video game *Super Mario Party Jamboree*, which board can get covered with the rising tide?

a) Goomba Lagoon

b) Rainbow Galleria

c) Western Land

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

11 What did scientists name a tree that grew from a 1,000-year-old seed found near Jerusalem?

12 True or false? Early voter turnout in Georgia is low this year.

True ☐ False ☐

13 The art exhibition *Get in the Game* is on display at a museum in which California city?

a) San Diego b) San Jose c) San Francisco

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

14 What is the only NFL team that was undefeated through week seven of this season?

15 Lochel's Bakery in Pennsylvania is conducting a Presidential poll using what sweet treat?

a) Brownies

b) Cookies

c) Cupcakes

a ☐ b ☐ c ☐

THE WEEK Junior

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Executive editor: Mindy Walker
Senior editors: Joey Bartolomeo, Gail O'Connor, Alisa Partlan, Jennifer Li Shotz
Associate editor: Brielle Diskin
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Publisher: Stevie Lee (stevie.lee@futurenet.com)
Account director: Mary Gallagher (mary.gallagher@futurenet.com)
US manufacturing and distribution manager: Lori Crook
Operations manager: Cassandra Mondonedo

Reader submissions: hello@theweekjunior.com
Customer service: TWJcustserv@cdsfulfillment.com
New subscriptions: TheWeekJunior.com
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BLUE HUE

Thousands of colorful stones and tiles make an intricate mosaic in the Sultan Qaboos Mosque, which took six years to build and opened in Oman in 2001.